

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
**VOLUNTARY STATEMENT**  
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EVENT#: 171001-3519

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SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO  
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

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NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: OFFICER THERON YOUNG (TY), P# 15103

DOB:

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

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The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE C. JEX (CJ), P# 5597, LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-03-17 at 1805 hours. Also present is Las Vegas Police Protective Association representative S. Nicholas (SN), P# 6676.

CJ: Operator this is Detective C. Jex, P# 5597, with the Force Investigation Team conducting a recorded witness officer statement reference Event # 171001-3519.

The officer being interviewed is Officer Theron, T-H-E-R-O-N, Young, Y-O-U-N-G, his P# 15103. His call sign for this incident was 8Mary61. He's part of the Flex Team in the Convention Center Area Command. His date of hire is [REDACTED] He is assigned to Convention Cer- Center Area Command, Squad CC16. And his RDOs are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. This interview is reference an active shooter that

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occurred on 10-1-17, at approximately 2208 hours at the Mandalay Bay Resort at 3950 Las Vegas Boulevard South. Today's date is 10-3-17, and starting time is 0605 hours. This statement is being conducted at LVMPD Headquarters, uh, Building C, uh, 3rd Floor in the, uh, CIRT Conference Room. Uh, also present is PPA Representative Scott Nicholas, P# 6676. All right is it okay if I call you Theron?

TH: That's fine.

CJ: Theron, uh, you're aware that this interview is being recorded?

TH: I am.

CJ: All right. Uh, before we get started what I would like for you to do is, uh, describe to me what you were wearing the - the night of the incident...

TH: Okay.

CJ: ..and, uh, and then any gear that you may have put on, uh, and describe that gear, okay?

TH: Okay.

CJ: Go ahead.

TH: Uh, our squad was conducting a plain-clothes plain operation so I was in street clothes, I had a - a black button up shirt with blue jeans and tennis shoes on. Um, we got the call, we were driving actually back, uh, to meet one of the detective sergeants to, um, maybe coordinate a CI. And that's when the call came out, we immediately pulled over and we had a tactical vest in the vehicle, the tactical vest was green in

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color, it had, um, a Metro Velcro badge on the front and I had the - the bright yellow and black Police on the back. I also was wearing my hang badge at the time on my shirt as well. I had donned that that equipment on which is a full plate carrier with - with armored plates and magazines. Um, I am a rifle carrier, I also slung my rifle as well as I had a, uh, a sidearm in a sidearm holster on a normal belt on my persons.

CJ: Okay. And the rifle, is that personally owned or Department?

TH: It's personally owned.

CJ: Okay and what - what kind of rifle was it?

TH: It's - it's a No- Noveske AR-15.

CJ: Okay.

TH: Yeah.

CJ: All right. Um, okay, uh, now what I'd like for you to do is just narrate me through, uh, how you responded...

TH: Okay.

CJ: ...or how you heard about it and how you responded and then just walk me through, tell the whole story all the way through...

TH: Okay.

CJ: ...'til you were re- essentially relieved from wherever you were.

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TH: All right so again I said before we were on our way to meet a detective sergeant, uh, we were trying to maybe possibly get a CI in our area command to work with us. Um, that's when the call came out, we were I believe just on Sierra Vista at the moment. Um, call came out, my partner and I, uh, we pulled over real fast and we just threw on the equipment very quickly, started heading towards, uh, the Mandalay Bay, Route 91 area. 'Cause we heard that's what the - the call was coming out as. Uh, as you know there was a lot of radio traffic, the first details was it was at the Route 91 and as we're on our way there then we started hearing guys saying it was coming from - from the Mandalay Bay. Um, we were traveling down - down, uh, Paradise, we made it over to, uh, Tropicana and then we started hearing that officers were taking fire at the intersection of Mandalay Bay and Las Vegas Boulevard and that we pretty much had confirmation that it was coming from the actual Mandalay Bay. We changed route, we went through the Excalibur, we wanted to go around, we did not want to take direct fire, we made the decision that we're gonna go inside and try to find this guy. So we changed direction, went around the Excalibur which there's a - a back street, Frank Sinatra which leads into a back valet of Mandalay Bay which is they - they call that area the Delano. Uh, we pulled right in there, we parked. My partner and I, we got out, um, we started trying to find a security guard so we could find which elevator bay we needed to go to. Um, during that we actually found a couple other officers that were already in there and they were wearing, uh, their tan Metro uniforms. Um, we grabbed a security guard and we said, "We need to get in an elevator right now, what floor are we going to?" We had multiple reports, at the time

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we had 29th Floor, possibly a 32nd Floor so we had multiple floors that maybe we were gonna go to. One security guard actually took us in improper direction and we found a right guy to take us the correct direction, we finally got in the elevator. Um, we decided that we were gonna go to the 32nd Floor 'cause like I said guys were getting information that it was multiple floors and we just made a decision that hey we're just gonna go to the 32nd, that's where we have our best information. We'll go there, we'll sweep the floor, if we don't find anything we'll go start working our way down to the next floor and so on and so forth. We made it up to the 32nd Floor, my partner and I along with I don't know those other officer's names. My partner is Officer Kravetz. Uh, I think we had like four guys in tans with us, don't quote me on that number. We went up the elevator, got to 32nd - the 31st Floor, we decided to use the stairs to go up, we didn't want to be ambushed or anything like that on that floor. Um, there was another officer who was waiting in the elevator bay and we got off the stairs at 32 he was right there and then that's when he told us that a security guard had been engaged on that floor. Um, we had an idea of where the room was, we knew it was the north area tower so we knew which direction to face. Uh, we got the information again from the officer there who was talking to that security guard. Um, we didn't know exactly where the room was at that moment, we just knew that it was possibly that - the # 135 room up there. Uh, we also were told there was multiple shooters. Uh, by the time that we had got up there we had heard no more shots. I was not hearing shots when we were in the - when we were, um, on the casino floor going in the elevator, I did not hear shots when we were in the stairwell, and we

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did not hear shots when we were actually on the 32nd at the end of the hallway facing that north - that north room. So we got a master key from the security guards and we decided that okay well we possibly have multiple shooters, that means it could be multiple rooms. We started going through doors and clearing rooms, working' our way down. Um, again maybe there's five to seven of us at this time, I don't know exactly. I just remember my partner and I, we - we stayed together the whole time. Um, and as we - as we are, uh, clearing, we're just kind of moving. Uh, we're - we're covering each other down the hallway so we- we're - we're doing it tactically, we have a guy covering down the hallway, a couple guys covering the hallway, we have a breacher up on the door, we're - we're pushing the doors in, we're goin' on and we're - we're clearing out rooms like we are trained to do. Uh, we're working our way up and then one of the guys noticed is there some impacts in the ceiling above us, we were probably about halfway down the hallway at this point. And again we're not hearing anything at all. Um, I lay in the prone because we see those and I start covering down the hallway and there's - you can see actually bullet fragments, shrapnel on the ground. So now we know that we're pretty sure we are in the right place where we need to be. Uh, we talked to a security guard and - and we're asking him again, "Does your guy know exactly where he took fire from?" I'm like looking at two doors down the hall, I said, "What are those two doors that I'm looking at? Is that - is that possibly the room?" And he said, "That is the room, # 32135 that we believe it came out." So now we're pretty sure that is the room now and maybe if there are multiple shooters, maybe they are all in that room. We decide

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to work forward a few more bays, uh, bays meaning the hotel rooms. We clear a couple more rooms on each the left and the right side. Uh, we were probably about three bays down and the last door that we go into there was actually sadly a toddler in there all by itself. We were able to get that out of there thankfully, pass it off to another officer who I think passed it off to a neighboring female. Um, so then we decided to decision that okay we believe this is the room and we know that there's been already fire taken down this hallway and we know SWAT is coming. Uh, Security was telling us they believe the stairwell and those doors might be barricaded and we decided to hold. 'Cause again we didn't hear anything. So we held, SWAT shows up, um, they start coordinating their attack, they got their snipers and everything like that. Um, they go ahead and make their move forward, they start setting up their breaching charge, they let us know that, "We're gonna breach, we're gonna breach," that's being communicated back. I guess I got a little ahead of myself, before all that I hear- I guess there was another team coming up the stairwell as well and the SWAT guy was communicating with them too. I - I got ahead of myself there.

CJ: Okay.

TH: Um, I believe my partner was helping him with that radio traffic. And at that time I am still in the prone and I am holding on that door as well as other officers are in the hallways holding on the door as well. Um, they do their coordination with that other team down the hallway 'cause there's some flashlights coming' out and we obviously don't want a - a crossfire or anything like that. I remember the guy calling, "Hey

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SWAT, SWAT, SWAT, identify yourself. Identify yourself." That's when they got on the radio and they started communicating, they knew that was a friendly, not - not our suspect and we had friendlies down the hallway. Uh, so SWAT made - made their plan. Um, they set up the breach, they told us, "Okay back up, get in the room and get ready to cover your ears and close your mouth 'cause it's gonna be loud." So one charge went off and then you had smoke coming' out and you could hear the smoke alarms coming off, things like that. Um, they said, "Hey we're gonna place another charge," um, so they placed another charge and they told us that breach is gonna be up again. Um, they said, "It's gonna be loud again, please cover your ears." So once they were ready and they told us to cover our ears we covered our ears again and they blew the door again. And at that - the second breach is when I believe that they did enter. Um, I didn't hear any loud gunfire, it sounded like maybe there might've been some suppressor fired 'cause it was not very loud or maybe because the room was so big we couldn't hear all the way down the hallway so I don't know if gunfire was exchanged between suspect and SWAT, or suspect 405 or what. Um, after that we walked up to the door, uh, as the SWAT guys came out and we said, "Okay well what else do you need now?" And they said, "Okay rooms gonna be - gonna be locked. What we need you guys to do is we need you to re-sweep the whole 32nd Floor. So myself, Officer Kravetz and another officer -- which he was in plain-clothes but he also had a full-identifiable Tac on, I don't know who that officer was -- we went back and cleared the entire 32nd Floor with other officers. So we had a four-man team on the left and a four-man team on the right. They took



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the right side, we took the left side, or vice versa. Again with the security guard with the master key and we re-cleared every tower on the whole floor. And there was actually some people, um, in a few rooms that were in the, uh, wing that we hadn't cleared previous and we got those people out as well. So after we, um, cleared that we went back over to the room to check in, um, there was a couple guys there, I believe there was a Sarge there and we just said, "We cleared like everything you told us to do," and they said, "Okay well SWAT wants you to stop clearing," I was like, "That's fine, we had already cleared everything." And they said, "Okay well you guys are good then," so then we - we, um, we called our sergeant and let 'em know where we were. Um, in our squads we already have strike teams set in incidents like that so what myself and Officer Kravetz did per our sergeant's instructions, we found those - the other group of guys that we're supposed to be with and we met up with them on the casino floor in Mandalay Bay and we held a position in the lobby.

CJ: On which floor?

TH: On the - the lobby level.

CJ: Oh the lobby level.

TH: We met up with our - two other guys from our squad that we're supposed to be with and we held there until further notice. And then, um, after that we were told okay we could - it was okay to leave Mandalay Bay now, then we went and found our supervisor which was at Mandalay Bay and Las Vegas Boulevard.

CJ: Okay.

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TH: And then we just kind of stayed there. Um, kind of just at the intersection one of our guys locked the keys in the car so we were waiting with him to - to get a tow to - to get it out. And that - and then we got relieved. So...

CJ: Okay.

TH: ...I know that was kind of a lot quickly but...

CJ: No that - no that was good.

SN: Awesome.

TH: So...

CJ: So, uh, you mentioned that you never did hear shots except for when they - after they had breached and entered...

TH: Yeah. So like I said as we were going up the elevator I didn't hear any shots, I don't - I don't think anybody else heard any shots. We got off on the 31st, didn't hear shots. We went up the stairs, we made it through that main - the main elevator bay and 32 now, we were not hearing anything.

CJ: So this - this stairwell that you went up from 31 to 32...

TH: Mm-hm.

CJ: ...where in - in relation - I've been up there so in - in relation to where you come off of the elevators in that - there's kind of a round area where the wings go off of to the room...

TH: Mm-hm.

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CJ: ...where are the stairs in relation to that if you can remember?

TH: I bel- you know what, we got a little turned around on our north, south, east and west up there so I can't give you...

CJ: That's okay.

TH: ...a great direction. Um, I know they were not the stairs that we came off, were not - was not the wing near the target room.

CJ: Okay.

TH: 'Cause I remember we had to come out - 'cause again - so you know how the Mandalay Bay (unintelligible) where it's got the big area and then you have the elevator base well then it splits off the three wings, we came down the one wing that one officer again was standing who had made contact with the security guard who was shot, and he was holding on that corner which was - now we know was facing - was facing north. And so we must've co- yeah we came out here, he was in a big area and then he was facing north and that's when we conducted our plan to start moving down the hallway.

CJ: When you were cl- you mentioned that you cleared the rooms down towards where the target...

TH: Yes.

CJ: ...room was, uh, were there people in any of those rooms?

TH: Yeah there - like I said we talked about the - the baby in the one room...

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CJ: The toddler.

TH: ...I know that the other rooms had some other - some adults in it as well. So yeah there was - there was some people in there, the amount or number I couldn't tell you. Um, but there was some people still in those rooms that we cleared out, yes there was.

CJ: Okay. Now talking about the - the charges that were set by SWAT...

TH: Mm-hm.

CJ: ...um, I'm just a little confused on that. You made - you made - you kind of made it sound like the two charges happened very quickly with each other.

TH: Yeah, uh, again (unintelligible) I know I said a lot quickly. They were not back to back.

CJ: Okay.

TH: Um, they set a charge, they - they detonated it, they waited, I couldn't tell you the time lapse, and they set another one and detonated it.

CJ: So when you heard the first one...

TH: Mm-hm.

CJ: ...and you said you were prone out watching the door down the...

TH: So, um, wh- when I relieved my prone - when they told me to leave my prone position is when the SWAT [REDACTED] got there. Then they said, "Back up in the room," 'cause they're gonna...

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CJ: Okay.

TH: ...they're gonna put the charges. So when the charge went off most of us were back in a room 'cause we propped all the doors open to let everyone know that we had cleared 'em and...

CJ: Okay.

TH: ...it was safe. Um, they told us to get in there and cover our ears-

CJ: Okay.

TH: Yes.

CJ: So - so when the breach happened you didn't see whether or not it went in...

TH: I didn't - yes.

CJ: ...went in there down there or anything like that.

TH: Hm-mm, no I did not.

CJ: And then when you heard the second one you don't know what was going on down there, while the second one went?

TH: No I don't.

CJ: Okay.

TH: I don't.

CJ: All right. All right. That clears that up. Um, you mentioned that you possibly heard rounds like sur- uh, a suppressed type of round...

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TH: 'Cause it was - it was qu- there was noise in there that was quiet that was, you know, it could've sounded like, um, a - a round that was fired from a - a suppressed weapon. Like and the room was big, it could've been...

CJ: Sure.

TH: ...it deadened in there, I don't know.

CJ: So you - you have heard that the suspect was 405...

TH: That's what we - that's what the rumors were floating around, yes.

CJ: Okay.

TH: Mm-hm.

CJ: So do you know the facts of it now at this point?

TH: I really don't.

CJ: Okay.

TH: I really don't.

CJ: Okay so just so that you understand that...

TH: Mm-hm.

CJ: ...he did 405.

TH: Okay.

CJ: Or, he committed suicide. All right. Um...

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TH: Well was there any rounds exchanged?

CJ: Um, I'll explain that to you...

TH: Okay.

CJ: ...um, here in just a minute. Now as you're clearing those rooms how did you get into those rooms?

TH: Okay so, um, I think I mentioned we grabbed a security officer with master keys and we dedicated one of our guys as breacher, breacher meaning the guy who would do the - the key and then open the door.

CJ: Okay.

TH: So we had one officer who would do that and he would put the key up, breacher up open the door, then we'd have two or three guys go into the room...

CJ: Okay.

TH: ...and clear it.

CJ: So you weren't kicking the door...

TH: No we were not kicking in doors...

CJ: but using the keys..

TH: we're us- we're using the key, yeah. Mm-hm.

CJ: Okay. All right. Um, when you - wh- when you made the decision to go upstairs where you had heard these different floors, 29th I think you said...

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TH: Yeah.

CJ: ...and then 30- the 32nd, where did you get that information? Where were you getting that info?

TH: Um, well some of it was coming through the radio multiple shooters on multiple floors. And then when we made contact with some of the officers and security on the floor, that's where they were saying that they think it's gonna be the 29th or 32nd Floor.

CJ: Okay.

TH: And that would be Mandalay Bay Security.

CJ: Okay. And did you - did you have a radio on your gear?

TH: I had - yes I had a radio right here, yeah.

CJ: Okay, all right. Um, Scott do you have anything?

SN: I don't.

CJ: Okay. Anything else that you can think of, any other details?

TH: Uh, it was very difficult to get on the radio but I'm sure you knew that already.

CJ: Okay.

TH: So we - one guy was communicating that was with us about where we were and what was goin' on, I do remember that.

CJ: Okay.

TH: So...



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CJ: All right. Anything else? Scott, anything else?

SN: No, sir. No.

CJ: All right. Operator this is, uh, the end of the interview. The same -- same people present. The time is, uh, 1821.

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**THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1821 HOURS.**

**CJ: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)**

**FIT2017-032**

**Reviewed by M6239S**

**10-08-17**

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**SPECIFIC CRIME:** ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

**DATE OCCURRED:** 10-01-17

**TIME OCCURRED:** 2208 HOURS

**LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE:** MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO  
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

**CITY OF LAS VEGAS**

**CLARK COUNTY**

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**NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT:** DETECTIVE VERL CONOVER (VC), P# 8388

**DOB:**

**SOCIAL SECURITY #:**

**RACE:**

**SEX:**

**HEIGHT:**

**WEIGHT:**

**HAIR:**

**EYES:**

**HOME ADDRESS:**

**PHONE 1:**

**WORK ADDRESS:**

**PHONE 2:**

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The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE M. SCLIMENTI (MS), P# 6239, LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-03-17 at 1756 hours. Also present are Detective K. Ploense (KP), P# 6269, and Las Vegas Police Protective Association representative B. Yant (BY), P# 6956.

MS: This is Detective M. Sclimenti, P# 6239 with the Force Investigation Team conducting a recorded statement with Detective Verl Conover. His P# is 8388, his call sign is Paul David 68. His date of hire is [REDACTED] He works at the South Central Area Command. His squad is South Central 36. His RDOs are Thursday, Friday, Saturday and his hours are 1430 to 0030. His vehicle number is 4583. This interview is reference to an officer-involved shooting - mass shooting that occurred on October 1, 2017, at 2208 hours in the area of the Mandalay Bay casino located at

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STATEMENT OF: DETECTIVE VERL CONOVER (VC), P# 8388

3950 South Las Vegas Boulevard, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119. Today's date is October 3, 2017, and the time is 1755 hours. This statement is being conducted at 400 South Martin Luther King Boulevard, Building C, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119. Also present is Detective K. Ploense, P# 6269 and PPA Representative Bryan Yant, P# 6956. Detective Conover, are you aware that this interview is being recorded?

VC: Yes.

MS: Okay. Before we get started, um, you are currently a detective and could you describe to me what, uh, standard or what uniform you were wearing that - the night of the incident?

VC: I had on a black polo shirt, blue jeans, uh, black tac vest, um, on the right side of the vest has my last name, uh, left side has the Metro star, the emblem. And on the back of the vest has a large square, uh, patch that says police.

MS: And were you carrying a duty belt or did you have different items?

VC: I have my gear on the - on the tac vest. I have my duty weapon, OC spray, flashlight, handcuffs, radio, uh, two extra mags.

MS: Were you wearing a body camera?

VC: No.

MS: Okay. And your weapon is a Glock C-19 9-millimeter with a serial number [REDACTED]. Is that correct?

VC: Yes.

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MS: Let's focus your attention on October 1st, 2017, uh, the night of the shooting at the Mandalay Bay. Um, just gonna - just please describe to me how did you learn the call or what details you learned. Just start from there.

VC: We were or I was in the office. Detective Berg came in from the other room and said that there was, uh, an active shooter at the Mandalay Bay. Uh, we turned on our radios to monitor the call. Once we realized that what is - that it was a legitimate call, um, started getting our - our gear together, uh, and we left as a squad. Um, myself and Detective Trzpis in my vehicle, uh, Detective Edge and Detective Berg in his vehicle. Uh, we made our way to the south side of the Mandalay Bay 'cause at the time, uh, the suspect was still shooting out of the east side of the building. So we didn't want to, uh, put ourself in his, uh, line of sight, I guess. So we came into the Shark Reef. When we got to the Shark Reef we met, uh, there was two canine officers there. I wanna say it was a canine sergeant and another canine officer. Uh, we went in as - as the six of us went in, uh, made our way through the casino to I wanna say it was either the registration desk or where the security was, uh, we made contact with those folks to get a - a little bit of an idea of what the situation was and what they had known. Uh, at that time I wanna say we met up with, uh, Sergeant Matchko and there was a handful of other officers, uh, with him. We made our way to the elevators. At that time we were under the impression that it was possible he was on the 29th floor. Uh, the elevators were - I wanna say they were locked out but we had somebody with us that unlocked the elevator for us. So we went up in the elevator, uh, got off on 28, um, made our way through the stairwell up to 29. Uh,

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when we came through 29, uh, we encountered other officers on 29, um, we got some more information that the shooter was actually on 32. Uh, so as a unit we went back up through the stairwell up to 32. Uh, we came in on - I wanna say we came in in the 300s. The stairwell we came up was in the 300 wing. Uh, we made our way east through the hallway into the center, you know, 'cause it kinda has three legs on it.

MS: Mm-hm.

VC: So we kinda made a - met up in the center there. Um, there were Mandalay Bay security was there with a couple of maintenance guys. Uh, they told us that the shooter's room was, uh, at the end of the 100 block of the rooms. Um, so from there we set up. Just kept eyes on the room, um, Sergeant Matchko took a handful of officers with him, uh, to get a better, uh, view of the room. I wanna say to get a better location on the room. There were some officers in the hallway. I don't know who they are or I just remember seeing somebody down in the middle of the hallway watching the suspect's door. Uh, so we took up kind of a rear position a containment position, I guess, having eyes on the door. Um, from that point it was myself, Farrah, a couple other uniformed officers, uh, while Matchko and I wanna say there was - I wanna say one of the SWAT guys was there. I think his name is Levi. I think he was either with us or met them at the door. Um, while we were sitting there we discovered that, uh, nobody had been -- 'cause the way the hallway is set up and then you got the other hallway here south of -- none of those persons had been evacuated yet, um, so I ended up - I left. Two officers stayed with Farrah watching

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STATEMENT OF: DETECTIVE VERL CONOVER (VC), P# 8388

the door, uh, I took three armed Mandalay Bay security officers with me and we started evacuating, uh, the folks that were in the 200 wing just in case if he started to shoot through the door. We thought if we were taking fire that they might be, uh, there could be a problem with that. So we started to get those folks out of the rooms, um, about three-quarters of the way through that, um, the team made entry into the - to the room. I finished getting everybody out of that wing, uh, and then I met back up with, uh, Sergeant Matchko, Trzpis and his team at the door of the suspect's room. Um, from that point Trzpis and I and Matchko stayed on the suspect's room until you guys showed up. That's pretty much it.

MS: Okay. Um, did you ever enter the room?

VC: No.

MS: Did you ever hear any gunshots before or when - before you guys even made it up to the hotel or on the hotel floor?

VC: Other than on the - no - no. I was gonna say I didn't even - I don't even think I heard 'em on the radio. So no.

MS: Okay. Go ahead.

KP: Detective Ploense. Um, way back in the beginning of your, uh, interview you said you were at the office. What office was that?

VC: Uh, South Central the PD office.

KP: Okay. South Central Area Command?

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VC: Yep.

KP: Okay. And you - were you able to see anybody go into the room to clear it?

VC: No.

KP: Why's that? Where were you at?

VC: I was - I was about three-quarters of the way down the 200 wing, um, evacuating the guests.

KP: Okay.

VC: So when they made entry into the room I was, uh, I heard it but I was inside of a room dealing with guests trying to get them out.

KP: Okay - okay. And, uh, one other thing. I'm sorry I may have missed it. But, uh, were you wearing your helmet or no?

VC: Oh I did have my helmet on, yeah, yes.

KP: Okay. Standard black LVMPD ballistic?

VC: Yep.

KP: Semi-shield.

VC: Shield or visor, yeah.

KP: Okay.

MS: Did you guys - so you took the elevator you didn't took the stairwell?

VC: We took the - we took the elevator to 28 and then we did the stairwell to 29.

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STATEMENT OF: DETECTIVE VERL CONOVER (VC), P# 8388

MS: Okay.

VC: And then went back into the stairwell, took the stairwell back up to 32, uh, and then went into the hallway there.

KP: Okay.

MS: And did, uh, what - did somebody tell you that hey the room's clear or whatever and then you just posted up on the outside and s- and stood by until Detective reb- uh, released you.

VC: Trzpis and Sergeant Matchko, um, when I met back up with them they were part of the entry team. I don't know if Matchko was part of the entry team or not.

MS: Okay.

VC: To be honest. Uh, I know Trzpis went in. I know he went in with Levi. Um, they were inside the room when I got to there. They were so I just posted up outside the door, um, that was it. So the only two that I really saw inside the room were, uh, Matchko and Trzpis.

MS: Anything else?

KP: No, nothing else.

MS: Do you have anything?

BY: The only thing I got for you Verl is when - when you heard the call and - and you all got loaded up and left South Central what do you think the - how long do you think



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the call had been going on or how quick was your arrival, um, because South Central's in such close proximity to the Mandalay Bay. Did you...

VC: From...

BY: ...still think it was dynamic and actively going on?

VC: Oh no, yeah. We were still under the impression that it was a dynamic situation. That they were still taking fire in the street. 'Cause when Jessie came out and told us that - that there was an active shooter, I mean, by the time we got our gear, got in the car and got to Shark Reef, uh, five minutes maybe ten.

MS: What did you see when you entered into the hotel?

VC: Business as usual. There was nobody - everybody was sitting at the bar and gambling and meandering around and, you know, when they saw us running through the thing they were just kinda what's, you know, what's going on here? So I didn't really think any of the guests really had an idea what was going on at that point.

MS: And when you went up you said there was security personnel that kinda helped or gave you some information and stuff up on the 32nd floor or whatever?

VC: Uh, I wanna say Sergeant Matchko was on the - he wasn't on the radio he was on the phone 'cause we could- couldn't get on the radio, um, and he - he was - whoever he was speaking with. I wanna say we or he had told us that, you know, we need to go up to 32.

MS: So then...

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STATEMENT OF: DETECTIVE VERL CONOVER (VC), P# 8388

VC: We gathered back together and went back up the stairwell.

MS: At any point did you discharge your firearm?

VC: No.

BY: Okay.

MS: All right. Uh, at this time the interview will end. I don't have any other questions. Is there anything else? I'm sorry. Is there anything else that you think is relevant or pertinent to this investigation...

VC: No.

MS: ...that we failed to ask you?

VC: No, I'm good.

MS: Okay. At this time the interview will end. Again the date is October 3, 2017, at 1807 hours.

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**THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1807 HOURS.**

**MS: KP: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)  
FIT2017-032  
Reviewed by M6239S  
10-08-17**

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
**VOLUNTARY STATEMENT**  
PAGE 1

EVENT#: 171001-3519

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SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO  
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

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NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: OFFICER MICHAEL THIELE (MT), P# 9199

DOB:

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

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The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE S. KEITH (SK), P# 9190, LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-03-17 at 1639 hours. Also present is Las Vegas Police Protective Association representative S. Grammas (SG), P# 6090.

SK: All right, Operator, this is Detective Keith with the Force Investigation Team conducting a recorded statement with Michael Theil. Uh, last name is Tom, Henry, Ida, Easy, Lincoln, Easy. First name is Michael. P# 9199. His call sign for, uh, the day in question is 3 Ocean 55. Date of hire is [REDACTED]. He is stationed out of Enterprise Area Command. Uh, squad is Enterprise 33. RDOs are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - Thursday, he works swings 1500 to 0100. Vehicle he was operating that day was 10752. The interview is reference, uh, an officer-involved shooting, um, that occurred 10-1-2017, Mandalay Bay, located at 3950 South Las

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MICHAEL THIELE (MT), P# 9199

Vegas Boulevard, under Event 171001-3519. Today's date is 10-3-2017. The time is 1639. This statement is being conducted at LVMPD Headquarters, Building A, Third Floor Conference Room. Also present is PPA - you're the president, right?

SG: Yeah.

SK: PPA President Grammas, P# 6090. Are you aware this, uh, interview is being recorded?

MT: Yes.

SK: Okay. And before we get started, what uniform were you wearin' that day?

MT: Patrol uniform, standard patrol uniform.

SK: Okay. So obviously we're here in reference to the active shooter that took place at the Route 91 Festival. Um, just tell me how you learned about the call and what your response was and what you did.

MT: Uh, how I learned about the call was through the radio. Uh, I heard that there was a - a 415A, uh, at the convention center. I typically always turn over the radio channels to see what's goin' on...

SK: Mm-hm.

MT: ...and hear it. Um, I then subsequently heard that an officer was down. And I knew my brother was in that area.

SK: Mm-hm.

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MICHAEL THIELE (MT), P# 9199

MT: I thought it was my brother that was hit. And I immediately went to the area. Uh, once I found out he wasn't hit, myself and Officer Bunitsky, uh, parked at Russel and Las Vegas Boulevard where we teamed up with four other officers and a sergeant and we started making our way into the Mandalay Bay. And we subsequently teamed up with, uh, the SWAT Officer, I believe his name was Levi.

SK: Mm-hm.

MT: And, uh, he brought us up to the 32nd floor and kept u- p- kept us as his team.

SK: Okay. Um, when you arrived at the 32nd floor, what - what took place?

MT: Uh, we originally were at the 32nd floor. Um, uh, Levi pulled us back and we went down one of the hallways, went to the stairwell that I believe was on the westside or walking west. Uh, we went down the - the flights under to the 31st floor. Went, uh, to the other stairwell that was adjacent to the suspect's room and went up that stairwell...

SK: Mm-hm.

MT: ...to, uh, where Levi de- developed a plan.

SK: Okay. So once he came up with the plan, what'd you guys do?

MT: Uh, once he made the plan, uh, he, uh, pointed at everyone, said, "I need you four, uh, to, uh, come with me. And then you three, once we go in, stay here and watch this room. And once the explosive breach was done, um, they pulled us out. We saw that there was cameras that were on a, um, cart.

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MICHAEL THIELE (MT), P# 9199

SK: Mm-hm.

MT: And we, uh, we subsequently while we were watchin' that room, at one point, they asked for, um, the second explosive breach. And somebody brought the second charge in and, uh, another officer to come in. And that's when I came in. They, uh, did the explosive breach. Um, and then they said it was Code Four. And at that point, it was done.

SK: Okay. Did you ever at any time go inside the rooms? Or any room?

MT: Uh, just into the room, uh, the furthest I went was, um, door and there's, uh, a little hallway here with the, um, I wouldn't - I wouldn't say it was a - it looked like a sink. I can't remember what it was.

SK: Mm-hm.

MT: And, uh, then it was the open part right around there. No further than that.

SK: Okay. And that was, would you believe that was the suspect's room, correct?

MT: No. I was not into the suspect's room. I never saw the suspect.

SK: Okay. Uh, so the room you went into, I mean...

MT: It w- it - I would call it, like, the family room of the suite. The - the main area of the suite.

SK: Okay. And so, that was - just - just to kinda back up, so there was an explosive breach, right?

MT: Correct.

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MICHAEL THIELE (MT), P# 9199

SK: Okay. And then you waited or you went in?

MT: Waited. I was holding on the front door - I'm sorry. Not the, uh, second, uh, door that we thought that the suspect with the wire and the cameras were coming out.

SK: Okay. So you stood on that position right there and then they went in and cleared the room. And then they called for you guys to come in?

MT: Yes. They - they asked for the ex-, uh, second explosive breach. Uh, somebody came out, I don't know which one, uh, someone else ran in the explosive breach. Went - we backed in, uh, to the room and at that point, they said Code Four, they were good. Um, and then I felt no reason to go in any further.

SK: Okay. So when you guys - when you came up that stairwell, was that the door that was directly adjacent to the suspect's room? Or...

MT: The stairwell, i- so, the stairwell was on the west wall.

SK: Mm-hm.

MT: The suspect's, uh, double door was on the north wall and the second one was on the east wall.

SK: Okay. Did you guys have any issues coming through that - that door at all?

MT: I wouldn't say issues, no. But it was, I mean there were a- a lotta officers there.

SK: Okay. All right. So you really didn't go that far into...

MT: No.

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MICHAEL THIELE (MT), P# 9199

SK: ...the suite. And then after that, you just...

MT: Uh, Officer Bunitsky and myself, uh, once we figured - and once we knew it was Code Four and they weren't gonna need us anymore, we went down and as we went down to the, uh, where the CP was, we got asked to be, uh, a part of the force protection, which was Force Pro One, but I was Strike Team 21 at that point.

SK: Okay. All right. Um, is there anything else you wanna add that you think we should know about or, uh...

MT: No.

SK: ...somethin' that you wanna. Okay. You guys?

SG: Uh, transcription, this is Grammas. Did you see any weapons when you went into that family room area?

MT: Uh, yeah. There was, um, uh, one that originally was at the front of the door was a - a rifle that was facing the door. And it, uh, was on a bi-pod. And then there were, uh, a couple others further into the room.

SG: See any broken windows?

MT: I did not.

SG: 'Kay. Did you see the suspect?

MT: I did not.

SG: (Unintelligible).



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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MICHAEL THIELE (MT), P# 9199

SK: That's it? Okay. All right. Operator this is the end of the interview. The time is 1647

Hours and same persons are present.

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**THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1647 HOURS.**

**SK: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)**

**FIT2017-032**

**Reviewed: 10/08/2017 K6269P**

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MICHAEL THIELE (MT), P# 9199

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**VOLUNTARY STATEMENT**  
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EVENT#: 171001-3519

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SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO  
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

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NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: OFFICER MIKE TOLBERT (MT), P# 13136

DOB:

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

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The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE B. PENNY (BP), P# 6042, LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-03-17 at 1259 hours.

BP: Operator, this is Detective Penny with the Force Investigation Team, conducting a recorded interview with Officer Mike Tolbert - T-O-L-B-E-R-T. His P# is 13136. Call sign is 3 - Ida - 43. Date of hire is [REDACTED] Works out of South Central Area Command. Squad is South Central 33. He's off Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - works 1430 to 0030. Vehicle number the night of the incident is gonna be 10685 from South Central. This interview is in reference to an active shooter event which occurred on October 1, 2017 at, uh, 2208 hours at Mandalay Bay - 3950 South Las

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MIKE TOLBERT (MT), P# 13136

Vegas Boulevard - specially the 32nd floor. Uh, today's date is October 3 of 2017 - current time is 1259 hours. This statement is being recorded at Mandalay Bay on the 32nd floor. Um, there's no other persons present. Uh, Officer Tolbert, you go by Mike, right?

MT: Yes.

BP: Okay, you aware this is being recorded?

MT: Yes.

BP: Okay, uh, before we get started. The night of the incident you were on duty and you were wearing the standard LVMPD uniform. Can you just describe that for me?

MT: That's correct. Uh, long sleeve tan uniform. Uh, I was wearing a badge. I had a body camera and I had my, uh, fl- full duty belt.

BP: Okay, so you're readily identifiable as a uniform police officer?

MT: That's correct.

BP: And so you're working patrol that night. Um, the night of the active shooter, um, that occurred at Mandalay Bay.

MT: Yes.

BP: Can you tell me what you learned of the call? How did you learn about it? And what your response was?

MT: Um, I was at the Chili's at Warm Springs and the Boulevard with, uh, my partner, Officer Burns. And we were listening to our channel and the canine unit on our

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MIKE TOLBERT (MT), P# 13136

channel said, "I'm gonna switch over to convention center for the active shooter." And at that time we switched over and started listening to the radio traffic. And when we heard the frantic radio traffic going on we decided to respond to the scene. Um, we, uh, activated lights and sirens. Um, got down there as quickly as possible. We parked right in front of Mandalay Bay. The only information we had is there was a shooter. Someone was shooting in the area of the Boulevard and like Mandalay Bay in that area. We didn't know where. Um, both me and Officer Burns parked our cars in front of Mandalay Bay on the east side of the street. Um, when we, uh, exited our vehicle, um, I deployed my shotgun, uh, Officer Burns was behind in his vehicle. He was goin' to gear up with his rifle. At that time we heard, uh, automatic gun fire coming from the area, but we didn't know exactly where. Um, there was radio traffic that the - the, uh, gun fire was possibly coming from one of the rooms at Mandalay Bay. So at that time we took cover behind our cars and we were tryin' to assess where the gun fire was coming from. After probably about, mm, a couple of minutes - maybe a minute or two, um, we couldn't locate exactly where the gun fire was coming from. Um, I said to Bur- Officer Burns that we needed to move. We cannot sit - sit here. And - and notice that the gun fire wasn't - didn't appear to be coming to our direction. Even though we were in the line of fire. It - I - I didn't hear the gun fire come from overhead. And at that time I was like, "We need to get to Mandalay Bay. We cannot sit here behind cover if the guy's continuing to shoot." So once there was a lull in the action, um, I went over to Officer Burns' car and just - when the shooting stopped we decided to run across the Boulevard towards Mandalay Bay as quickly as

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MIKE TOLBERT (MT), P# 13136

possible. And that's what we did. We took off on foot. Sprinted across the Boulevard and I was with another - I briefly lost contact with Officer Burns and I was with another officer. And we got to one of the driveways - there was like an overhang at the entrance of Mandalay Bay once we got some cover. We had kinda caught our breath up, uh, waited a few moments. Officer Burns came with another officer - I'm not sure who it was. And we grouped up and then we went to the lobby of the Mandalay Bay. Um, while we're in Mandalay Bay we tried to make contact with security to try to figure out what floor the active shooter was on. At that time they told us there was possibly two shooters on floor 29 and 32. Um, we waited a few moments we were tryin' to assess if the guy was still shooting while we were inside the hotel. To determine what our response would be if we were goin' to wait for more resources or ass- or go to threat immediately. Um, at that time I was asking for - I believe I asked for - we - you know, for more rifles. We need more rifles down here. And we also needed to send a unit to the surveillance room to see if we can get any surveillance. Um, I think - yeah, one of the officers that was with us decided to go to the surveillance room. Uh, myself and Officer Burns and I believe Sergeant Matchko and another female officer - I don't know her name. Um, decided that we were gonna start - we were goin' to go to, uh, floor 29 first. Um, but we decided that we should go to 28 and then use the stairs to go to 29. So we took the elevator up. We got to 28 we took the stairs to 29. We - we held the hallway, um, at that point I decided we need to at least take a room for more cover in case there is a shooter down here so I kicked the door of the suite behind us. I'm not sure what room number it was. We

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MIKE TOLBERT (MT), P# 13136

cleared that room and we exited. I tried to kick another door to one of the side rooms, but I was unable to successfully make entry. Um, after several moments we determined that there was no shooter on 29 and that the real shooter was on 32. I believe another officer came to us and said we need to go to 32. Um, at that time we went with the other officers to floor 32. We met in the middle lobby which has access to the three hallways. And we grouped up there. Um, I saw that there were officers half way down the hallway already holding the room. Um, we spoke with security and they said, "Yes, there was a security officer that was walking down the hallway and was shot by the suspect through the door of the suite, um, at the end of the hallway." He also gave us information that the stairwell was barricaded which is located next to the suspect room. Um, at that time there was more officers arriving. There was a S.W.A.T. officer who arrived. I'm not sure what his name was. Um, he arrived and the plan was determined that we were gonna go one level below and then we're gonna go down the hallway and take the stairway to, um, that stairwell up to where the suspect room was located. So myself - it was probably ten officers - nine or ten officers, um, went the floor below. We went down the hallway into the stairwell. Um, we stood by momentarily - we - we try - we broke a couple of lamps tryin' to give us more cover. Um, the, uh, S.W.A.T. officer, um, breached the first door that was, uh, I guess had an L-bracket on it. Um, he opened the second door and he had a breaching charge, which he, uh, placed on the door. Um, plan was we were gonna blow the door. Um, I was behind them and the officers behind them I was only armed with my shotgun at that time. That if - due to the number of officers

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MIKE TOLBERT (MT), P# 13136

we did not want to be too close together at that time. We kinda wanted to be far apart in case the suspect decided to shoot once the breach was done. And that if any officers were hit we were goin' to evac - evac - and we'd go up there and grab them and get them outta there. Because we were - half our - half the officers there were not - did not have ample fire power to engage a suspect with automatic weapons. So, um, the S.W.A.T. officer blew the door, um, assessed and I believe the first - I'm not sure how many - there was a canine officer there that was - had a rifle. And I'm not sure if another S.W.A.T. officer - I'm not sure. There was three of them that went in there. And, uh, went in to clear the room. We moved up into the - the stairwell. A few of us holding the doors open and we believe that the suspect also had access to one of the side rooms. So the room across the hallway we covered while they cleared the room. Um, we held that for a few moments. We did hear that they said that there was a suspect down. And that they needed another breaching charge. So at that time they went back into the hallway. I grabbed a breaching charge got it up. They, uh, applied it - I'm not sure where they applied it in the room, uh, they detonated that breaching charge. And cleared I guess the rest, uh, the, uh, secondary room of the - the other room. Um, during that time I'm not sure exactly when they were clearing or at the end or when the breaching charged, but I did hear three gun shots. Um, I did not know who fired. I never got that information. I had no idea if they shot the suspect or I - I'm not sure what happened when I heard those gunshots. Um, at that time once they said that those rooms were cleared. The rest - we met up with the rest of the officers that were coming down the



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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MIKE TOLBERT (MT), P# 13136

hallway. Um, I briefly stepped into the sus- suspect's, um, suite - for momentarily I stu- I think I took a step in. I took a look around. Um, at that time, uh, it was decided that they were gonna start clearing all these rooms in this hallway. So they were gonna start doin' that as a team. Um, there were several officers there at that time. And we were listening to the radio. We also heard that there was possibly, uh, another active shooter at the Paris. So a groups of officers with myself, um, decided to say that this scene upstairs was static. That they were just clearing rooms and they had ample - ample officers to take care of that. That the rest of the officers, um, to redeploy to another area on the strip if - if there were other suspects or active shooters. Um, I went downstairs to the valet. I made contact with, um, there was a captain. I'm not sure his name. And he wanted to setup the command post, uh, in the valet of Mandalay Bay. He instructed me to get my patrol car, which I did. It was still parked on the strip where I'd left it. Um, when I came back to the command post the captain, myself, and another, uh, Officer Liske, I believe his name is, um, he wanted us to, um, standby at the west valet. We deployed to the west valet and that's where we spent most of the night until we were deployed back to South Central for another assignment.

BP: All right. Now, um, Burns what's his first name?

MT: Jacoby?

BP: You know his P# ?

MT: I think it's 9805 - I believe.

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MIKE TOLBERT (MT), P# 13136

BP: All right. So you guys are just at - at dinner. Your K9 your channel.

MT: Yeah, we're just in the parking lot eating in the car. Just chillin' - waitin'..

BP: Okay.

MT: ...so.

BP: And it's your K9 from your channel say, "Hey, I'm switching over to convention center for the active shooter."

MT: Yeah.

BP: You guys' switch over. You hear just the chaos over the radio.

MT: Mm-hm.

BP: Like, we're rollin'.

MT: Yes.

BP: Um, as you get - as you guys get to - in front of Mandalay Bay, um, were you - you guys were parked south of Mandalay Bay Drive?

MT: Yes, we're - we're south of.

BP: So it's like over there by the McDonald's and all that stuff like...

MT: No, it's - it's, you know, the, uh, dirt lot. You know where that old ferris wheel they were gonna...

BP: Yeah.

MT: ...build there? There - we were right in front of that.

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BP: Okay, so - so you're parked in front of the east side of the street.

MT: Mm-hm.

BP: Um, you grab your - your gauge. Burns grabs his rifle.

MT: Yeah.

BP: And you guys are behind cover tryin' to assess where the gun fire is coming from 'cause it's still so much confusion...

MT: Yes.

BP: ...as to where it is. Um. while you guys are back there you can hear the automatic gun fire.

MT: Mm-hm.

BP: Um, could you tell, like was it just - rapid automatic, like, multiple bursts with breaks in them or was it just continuous?

MT: It was pre- it seemed pretty continuous. There was some breaks, but it - it seemed continuous. So...

BP: The automatic gun fire that you were hearing was it, uh, consistent, like the same caliber sound the entire time or were there times where it was larger caliber?

MT: I'm - I'm not great with that. So I couldn't tell you if it was different calibers or not.

BP: Okay. But you were hearing was just the automatic gun fire the whole time? Do you remember hearing any like louder consistent slower shots?

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MT: Yes, I mean it did - it did fluctuate...

BP: Okay.

MT: ...somewhat...

BP: Okay.

MT: ...so.

BP: Um, so when there was a lull in the - in the gun fire, um, you guys decide, "Hey we're not taking rounds yet." Um, were you aware of other officers that were taking rounds?

MT: Um, I mean I was aware that there were - the rounds were hitting, uh, north of us. More the intersection and more towards the crowd. That's what I believe - that's where I believe the rounds are going.

BP: Okay.

MT: We heard traffic that the rounds were goin' still in that direction.

BP: Okay.

MT: So.

BP: So you guys decide, "Hey we're behind cover. The rounds - we're not taking rounds now. We need to get to better cover." So when there's a lull - a break you guys head towards Mandalay Bay.

MT: Yes.

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BP: Get up towards, um, the valet area. While running you guys get separated. But, you happen to meet up with another officer when you finally get to the overhang. The four of you meet up - catch your breath. Say, "Okay, we're goin' in."

MT: Yeah.

BP: Um, you go in. Meet up with security. You guys start formulating a plan.

MT: Mm-hm.

BP: Like, do we - let's get more resources at least get 'em this way more rifles 'cause you know...

MT: Yeah - yeah.

BP: ...somebody has an automatic weapon.

MT: We thought they may be coming down...

BP: Yeah.

MT: ...to the lobby. I mean...

BP: So you guys are planning for if he comes down we need more equipment - more guns - more people...

MT: Mm-hm.

BP: Um, get somebody in surveillance to start finding cameras - start working that.

MT: Mm-hm.

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BP: So you guys' are doing a whole bunch of planning right there w- as - as more resources show up, um, security is telling you maybe 29 - maybe 32 - possibly both.

MT: Yeah.

BP: So Sergeant Matchko shows up. Other officers, you know, like - let - let's go.

MT: Mm-hm.

BP: Get in an elevator. You take it up to 28 - take the stairs to 29. Start - assess - boot a door to get out of the hallway - out of the fatal funnels.

MT: Mm-hm.

BP: Um, clear that room. Still assess - tried to check another room. Can't get it and then information is updated we need to get to 32 - the shooter is on 32.

MT: Yes.

BP: You make your way up to 32. Um, you start - you start - went to stop on 31 take the stairs to 32 or...

MT: Y...

BP: ...right to 32?

MT: Yeah - yeah I don't think we took the elevator. I - I can't...

BP: Uh...

MT: I can't remember if we took the elevator or the stairs...

BP: No worries.

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MT: ...so.

BP: You get to 32. So you're in the central area - the hub.

MT: Yes.

BP: Um, there is officers - that you see officers down the hallway about half way down of our target hallway.

MT: Yes.

BP: So they're covering that. Um, by that time S.W.A.T. shows up. You got - you got an operator with you. Um, K9 guys with you. And it's like, "Hey, you know, we need to get down there." There's - you no there's a doorway right there.

MT: Mm-hm.

BP: You guys go down to 31 work the hall. Um, you got information that - from security that he had barricaded the door. So you guys enter the stairwell from 31. Get up - S.W.A.T. breaches the door - mechanically breach it with a tool.

MT: Yes.

BP: ...or whatever.

MT: Yeah - he had a tool so.

BP: So he pops it with a tool. Um, you guy's take out some of the lights to give you concealment. Um, S.W.A.T. opens the door places a breaching charge. Plan is breach - guys with long guns will breach assess. Long guns will enter - most fire power.. You guys are gonna hold if people start - you guys - and if anyone was takin'

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rounds evac out - hold. And then when the breach goes off - Rifles go in they announce suspect down. Um, you guys are holding 'cause you're watching the other door. That's right next to it. That's across from the door from the stairwell. He - S.W.A.T. calls for another breach. The breachin' bag is right there where - close to you.

MT: It was in the hallway just one of - one of the charges...

BP: Okay.

MT: ...was just out in the stairwell.

BP: Okay, so you grab the breach - take it into the room or give it to S.W.A.T. There's the second breach, um, they clear that room. Uh, you briefly make - make entry - just check everything out. Make sure, you know, everything's secure in there. And then after that - again, you know, you're hearing radio traffic - active shooter at Paris. Um, there's tons of cops up here already. This guys - we - as they make the plan to start clearing the rooms. You decide with other officers that's - it's in everyone's best interest or abilities to get back down for redeployment to start working these other active shooter calls. As you get back down to the lobby. Get out to valet this captain down there wants to set up C.P. down there. Tells you, "Hey, go get your car." You go get it. As you're bringing it up they tell you, "Hey, go deploy over at the west valet and hold there." Which is where you spent the night for the most part.

MT: Mm-hm.



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BP: Um, while you were actually on 29 and then working your way up to 30 - 31 - 32 - did you hear any more gun fire while you were actually on this part of the hotel or was it kinda muffled?

MT: I didn't hear - no, I didn't hear any.

BP: Okay.

MT: When we were on the - when we were initially at 28 - and got to 29 I didn't hear any gun fire.

BP: Okay. And when you guys were up there was there anymore radio traffic about shots still being fired from that area?

MT: That - at that time no.

BP: Okay.

MT: I didn't hear any traffic.

BP: Okay.

MT: And that's kinda what we're talking about. At that time the difference between if he's

[REDACTED] We need to get more resources...

BP: Yeah.

MT: ...up here. 'Cause we're in [REDACTED]

BP: Okay.

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MT: ...so.

BP: Um, you know, with this being so dynamic and, you know, this guy's throwing automatic weapon fire when S.W.A.T. gets there it's like, "Hey, you know, we need to make sure this over."

MT: Mm-hm.

BP: And did you see the suspect when he was down when you went in the room or did you...

MT: No.

BP: Okay.

MT: I peeked in the - just kinda the whatever the entry room is. I kinda peeked in I saw a - what appeared to be an automatic weapon or rifle on the ground. And that was the extent of it.

BP: Okay.

MT: At that point I didn't want to enter the scene after they already cleared. There was no reason for me to be in there.

BP: Okay.

MT: So I stepped out...

BP: Okay.

MT: ...so.

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BP: All right, you just kinda stuck in the foyer area.

MT: Yeah.

BP: While the rest of the guys - they had cleared it.

MT: Mm-hm.

BP: And then it's like, "Okay, hey we got other stuff goin' on let's get down. Let's clear this. Let's get outside. Let's go start working these other scenes."

MT: Yes.

BP: All right. Um, as you're down - down the street and you're hearing the automatic gun fire and, you know, people are hit. Um, what's your mindset going at that time. I mean is this like - were you concerned he's gonna suddenly track and see your cars down there and...

MT: I - yes, that was a concern, but it was also that we need to get to this guy.

BP: Yeah.

MT: We have to stop this guy. We need to get over there. You know, 'cause we - no one really knew where it was coming from, but we knew - okay at least we know it's the hotel. It's coming from that hotel. And we had to get over there. We just - we can't - I can't - I'm like I'm not goin' to sit behind my car especially if we're not taking fire.

BP: Yeah.

MT: And we had no real cover besides our cars. So, um, I was like we need to go. Just get over there. So that - that's when we decided to hey, at least let's get over to the

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hotel. We know it's coming from there, you know, we need to find a way to go stop this guy. So...

BP: Okay, and then after the door was breached and then there, um, you heard, uh, three shots from inside the room. Um...

MT: Yes.

BP: ...you couldn't tell if it was suspect or officer. Um, was it suppressed gun fire or - or could you tell?

MT: I couldn't tell...

BP: Okay.

MT: ...(unintelligible).

BP: It - it was just three...

MT: Mm-hm.

BP: ...um, and nothing else after that. Did you discharge your firearm at any time?

MT: No.

BP: All right, is there anything else that you can think of that either I didn't ask you or something that you saw or heard during this event and you think, you know, it's important that - that we know?

MT: No.

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BP: All right, thank you. Uh, it's be the end of the interview. Same persons are present -  
time is 1321.

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THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT THE MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO, ROOM 32-125, 3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89119, ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1321 HOURS.

BP: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)

FIT2017-032

Reviewed by B8884K

10-08-17

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SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO  
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

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NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: DETECTIVE STEVE TRZPIS (ST), P# 8563

DOB:

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

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The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE P. QUINTEROS, P# 9055 (PQ), LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-03-17 at 1755 hours. Also present are Detective A. Ubbens (AU), P# 13119, and Las Vegas Police Protective Association representative M. Hamm (MH), P# 6675.

PQ: Operator, this is Detective P. Quinteros, P# 9055 with the Force Investigation Team conducting a taped statement reference Event# 1710013519. The interview's being conducted with Officer Steve Trzpis. That's T-R...

ST: Z.

PQ: Z-P-I-S. Thank you. P# 8563. Call sign that day was PD68. Date of hire is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] current, uh, area command and unit, South Central Area Command PD. His RDOs are Thursday, Friday, Saturdays and his hours are 1430 to 0030 hours.

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Um, that day, uh, he was in a unmarked patrol vehicle. This interview is in reference to an active shooter incident that occurred on October 1, 2017 at approximately 2208 hours in the area of 3950 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119, which is the Manda- Mandalay Bay Resort. Today's date is October 3, 2017 and the time is 1755 hours. This statement is being conducted at LVMPD Headquarters, Building C, third floor. Also present is Officer M. Hamm, that's Henry, Adam, Mary, Mary, P# 6775, which is with the PPA, and Detective A. Ubbens, that's Union, Baker, Baker, Easy, Nora, Sam, P# 13119 with FIT. All right, um, before we get started, um, let's start off with what you were wearing that day of the incident.

ST: Uh, I was in essentially what I have on now. I had a black, uh, 5-11 shirt and blue jeans. Um, when I responded to the scene I had my tactical vest, it's a black tactical vest. It has a large, uh, velcroed on Police badge on the front that says, "Police," and it is also the Metro logo sewn into it, and then large Police patch on the back. Had my, uh, riot helmet on. Uh, that was it for clothing.

PQ: And as far as, uh, weapons?

ST: I had my, uh, Glock 17 with a weapons mounted light that's attached to the vest. I also had my Glock 26 on my hip.

PQ: Okay, and any other, um, equipment, like, uh, handcuffs or anything like that?

ST: Uh, the tact vest has, um, extra magazines, um, I - I didn't have the Taser in with it, uh, which is a pouch, but, um, tryin' to think any other weapons. Uh, I think that's it. Flashlights, things like that, accessories but no - no other weapons.

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PQ: Okay, and then, um, did you have a body worn camera that day?

ST: I did not.

PQ: Okay. Um, so let's, um, let's start essentially what - from your perspective as, uh, for this incident is when you heard about it, how you responded and what you did during the incident.

ST: Okay. Um, we were at South Central Area Command, in our office. Uh, there was - there was four of us on the squad. Um, one of the other detectives in the office, uh, said, uh, "Did you hear the radio?" It was Detective Burg. He said there's an active shooter, or that's what came across the air. So, you know, we immediately, you know, turned up the radios and heard, "Active shooter possible at the Route 91, uh, concert." So, immediately, we gathered our gear. Um, at this point the radio traffic was startin' to come - a flow of it - sorry. It was silenced. Um, the radio traffic's startin' to come in a little bit more, so, uh, we're headed out to our cars. Details, at this point, were the possible shooter was inside the Mandalay Bay and shooting across, or at least, um, some version of that. So, we - we're drivin' an unmarked minivan, me and, uh, Detective Conover hopped in, and Detective Burg and, uh, Detective Edge are in their truck. We start headin' up the Boulevard north. We decide probably not a good idea to go in front of Mandalay Bay, so we decide to head up Russell. So, we go up Russell and come into the Convention Center side, the south side of the Mandalay Bay. When we go into the Convention Center side,



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we hit - has a road that wraps around east and then heads north into the Shark Reef area.

PQ: Okay.

ST: So, we go there. As soon as we come around the corner, we see two K-9 vehicles out front. So, we, uh, go up to the Shark Reef entrance, uh, to Sergeant Bitsko and, uh, K-9 Unit Newton were out front and they were gearing up. So, we gathered our stuff, um, we meet up with sar-, uh, Sergeant Bitsko. He hands me a shield and we wait for, uh, Detective Edge and Burg that were just behind us. When they get there, we form up, we have us six, so we enter from the Shark Reef entrance. So, um, at - at no point did I do radio traffic, uh, Sergeant Bitsko was doin' all the radio traffic, so he relayed, you know, that we had the strike team there and where we were entering from and so, we enter the casino there, um, navigate our way through, start callin' people out as we're navigatin' our way through. We get to the security tower. Uh, I believe at that point, Sergeant Bitsko directs Detective Burg to stay there for cameras, to try to access the cameras. We take the rest of us five and we, um, get directions to the elevator for the tower that faces the Boulevard. So, we head to the elevator. When we get to the elevator, there's two - two or three patrol units there, you know, in uniform and, uh, we get security to unlock the elevator for us, 'cause I guess they lo- had locked the elevator, so when we get to the elevator, another team had come to the elevator. It was, uh, Sergeant Matchko and several other officers, I'm not sure who it was. Um, so we head up. I think we - we probably had 10 guys in the elevator. So, we head up and we - at this point we had heard information that

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there was possible shooting on the 29th floor. So, uh, Sergeant Bitsko decides we're gonna get off on the 28th and work our way up. So, we get off on the 28th, um, it was Sergeant Bitsko, Newton, me and there's a - I forget his name, I think his first name's Eric but he works out of Robbery. That was our stack of four. The other guys went with Sergeant Matchko to 29 I believe. So, we get off on 28, we clear 28. All three hallways were basically, we're - we're runnin' our active shooter stack, and we're just clearin' the hallway or any open doors. So, open doors were kicked in - we're goin' in and makin' sure. Um, so we get through 28, we pop up to 29, we clear 29. We go to 30, we clear 30, was it on 30? I'm sorry, on 30 - I believe it was 30. We come to 30 and there's already a - a - a squad on 30, so we cleared with them, that they were clearin' the floor so we hopped up to 31. So, we get to 31 and we're clearin' 31 and when we get to one of the other - the hallways, it's not the one that faced - when we get to the end of the hallway, it's not the one that faces the Boulevard. 'Cause we came up on the one that faces the Boulevard, and we could smell - you could smell the gun- you know, the gunpowder. So, we clear all of 31, but the hallway we end on is not the one under the suspect's room and we run into, uh, Levi there. SWAT officer. Uh, what's his last name? Hancock. So, we run into Levi in 31 and he says - we were gonna head up, he says, "Let's - let's shoot back to the hallway underneath the suspect and let's head up from that stairwell." So, we get with Levi and we go over to that stairwell. We head up that stairwell and there's, uh, some security guards up at the top of the stairwell kinda holdin' the stairwell and so it's - it's Hancock, Bitsko, Newton, me, the guy from robbery and then we ran into two

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plainclothes with tact vests, uh, Matt Donaldson and I think his partner was Walford or Wallfer. So, there's us in that hallway of the stairwell. We're - uh, Levi's contacting control at this point. Um, so he wants the lights out so we're workin' on takin' the lights out so we don't - 'cause we know, at this point, the door we're gonna come through is gonna be the hallway and the suspect's door's gonna be immediately to our left and we know, at least through radio traffic, that there's already a team on that hallway coverin' down the long end of the hallway. So, we're tryin' to communicate. We got, uh, oh, it was, uh, Officer Burns was also in the hall - in the stairwell. So, Officer Jacoby Burns, he's gettin' on the phone with Matchko, tellin' Matchko, "Hey, we're in the stairwell, just so you know we're gonna poke our head out and see what's goin' on." So, uh, Levi pops open the door, takes a peek. Matchko acknowledges that we're in the hallway. Um, at this point, uh, we can see the - you can see the holes that come out of the suspect's doors. You can see that he's already fired out. Um, Levi decides that he's gonna use an explosive charge on the door. So, he calls - we get, um, Huddler on the phone and he lets Lieutenant Huddler know, "Hey, I wanna put a charge on the door, I wanna see what the response is from the suspect." Huddler, you can hear him over the phone, you couldn't hear all of it, but he says, "Hey, you know, do you need more SWAT guys," whatnot. He says, "No, I got six guys here, we're good." So, he sets up this charge, um, I think it was Bitsko goes with him. It might've been Newton, but they pop out in the hall and it's - it's only, like, a foot or two to the door - of the suspect, from our door. So, he pops out into the hall, places the charge, go back in, he blows the door.

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He lets us know, before he blows the door, he says, "Hey, once we blow this door," excuse me. "If there's no response, we're gonna open this up, we're just gonna roll in." So, blows the door, we get no gunfire out, anything like that. Now, where we are, there's the stairwell door, probably a - maybe a four foot room, like a - like a - I don't even know what to call it, it's just an access room to the second door that leads into the hallway, so we have two doors between us and the hallway, and then the suspect's door's on the left. So, we close both those. Levi blows the door and we - we get no response, so we let Matchko know, "Hey, we're rollin' in," 'cause we're gonna be comin' out quick and we don't want any - any friendly fire. So, blow open those doors, we roll in the - the suspect room. Um, I - I believe the stack was Levi first, Bitsko, Newton, me, Wallfer and then, uh, then, uh, Donaldson. Yeah, I believe that was the - the five that initially went - there mighta been one more guy. So, we roll in, um, initially, I believe it was Sergeant Bitsko and someone else went - there's a room - have you guys been in? Okay.

PQ: Mm-hm.

ST: So, the room to the left, they go to clear that extra room. I go with Levi and Donaldson and Walford to the right behind that little kitchen type area. We see a suspect on the ground. I clear the bathroom, come out, stacked on Levi and he says, "Hey, this door's locked." It's that other room. He says, "I need my other charge." So, I go out of the room, tell one of the guys in the stairwell, "Hey," 'cause there was some patrol guys still in the stairwell. I said, "I need Levi's other charge." So, they hand me the charge, I go back in, I hand it to Levi. At this point, I can't be sure if they

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came in behind us the first time or if it was after I came in with the - with Levi's other charge, but the other SWAT guy, I think it was O'Donnell, I'm not sure his name, and then Magsaysay. Officer Magsaysay. I know him 'cause he's at South Central. He's in tact gear, too. They come in, so now they're inside the room and Levi's um, settin' the charge on the second door. So, we're kinda behind that kitchen area, stacked up. He blows that second door, um, we roll into - I never - him and the other SWAT guy roll into that second room. I held the doorway. Um, 'cause his - it was kinda tight in there with - with the - the door blown up, so I held the doorway, they cleared the bathroom, they cleared the little bed area, and then we were done. We moved out from there. Um, after that, you know, most, uh, Bitsko and - and Newton and - and Levi were in the room doin' whatever they needed to do for - for a few minutes. They ended up leavin'. For the rest of the night, I sat on the room, security with Detective Conover. Um, I did go in with Sergeant Matchko for a long time. We were tryin' to gather intel for, uh, SWAT. He was on the phone with, I believe it was SWAT commander, I'm not sure exactly who he was on the phone with, but they were directin' us to try to get intel from the phones, laptops, things like that, so, um, I assisted with Matchko with that. So, that was about it.

PQ: Okay, so, um, when you guys were on the elevator to go up, essentially, you were in, uh, two strike teams, pretty much.

ST: There was - there was probably, I - I think there was, like, 10 guys.

PQ: Mm-hm.

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ST: And we kinda just said, "You, you, you, you, you - 28. You, you, you - we'll go to 29."

PQ: Okay, so now when, uh, strike teams are split up, uh, you - you - your team starts on the 28th floor, right?

ST: Yeah.

PQ: So, as you guys are clearing, uh, 28, 29, getting to 30, when do you guys realize it's gonna be on the 32nd floor? Is it - someone say it, or did you guys hear anything?

ST: I - uh, Bitsko, we had said it pretty much the whole time, that we knew 32nd was probably the target floor, but because we heard 29 comin' into the hotel, we went to 28 first.

PQ: Okay.

ST: Once we were clear in there, we thought, just in case he got out and he got mobile, let's clear straight up instead of just jumpin' up to 32. So, and like I said, we got to 30 and there was another team, so we just skipped up to 31 I think it was, yeah.

PQ: Um, when you guys got up to 32nd, uh, did you - did you see any, like, security officers or...

ST: There was security in the stairwell. There was a couple officers, uniform officers in the stairwell. Um, oh, security had let us know that he had - he had bolted the door. So he, uh, Levi had, like, little mini-halogen tool, so we had to halogen the first door.

AU: Did security say that security bolted it or that the suspect bolted it?

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ST: I gotta be honest, I thought that he said he bolted it. The - the security guard bolted it, but, I can't be 100% sure that he said he bolted it or not. I can't think of a reason he would, but it sounded like that's what he said, but there was a lot goin' on, I'm not sure.

AU: Do you know if it was bolted in the hallway or in the firewall?

ST: From, um...

AU: Like, where would...

ST: It's hard for me to describe if I could, it's...

AU: If you were gonna bolt it, would you have to be standing in the hallway or the fire exit?

ST: You would have to be standing in that tiny little room. So, if - I don't know, I'll try to - I'll try to say it so you could get it on tape. But, like, here's the hallway, 'kay?

AU: Mm-hm.

ST: Suspect's door right here, okay? And this is the door - there's another door here. So, this room's only this big and then the...

PQ: Stairs.

ST: ...stairs are all here, okay?

AU: Mm-hm.

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ST: And a little walkway in here. So, this door was bolted with an L-bracket, like this here.

AU: Okay. So, this second door...

ST: Second door, and this was open, and this one was bolted.

AU: ...from the hallway. Was bolted on the hallway side.

ST: Yep.

AU: Okay.

ST: On the inside, in that little tiny...

AU: Okay.

ST: You know, 3 x 3 room.

PQ: Just so we can clarify, 'cause it's on tape, it's bolted on the stair side. So, everybody's on the stairs?

ST: No.

PQ: No?

ST: It's - if - if I'm comin' up the stairs, it's bolted on that door, but it's on the inside of that door.

PQ: So, you don't see it, so...

ST: We can't see it.

PQ: It's in the little firewall.



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ST: Yes.

PQ: Second door from the hallway, bolted on the hallway side.

ST: Yes. Yes. You would have to bolt it coming in from the hallway.

PQ: Okay.

ST: In one door then bolting that second door.

PQ: Okay.

AU: Did you see, after is all said and done.

ST: Yes.

AU: Did you see the bolt?

ST: Yeah, after it was said and done, it was, uh, I wanna say four screws on a - on a, maybe a two inch L-bracket.

AU: Okay.

ST: So, it was held from the - from the frame...

AU: Uh-huh.

ST: ...to the door. And it was just screwed in.

AU: When you were - from when you arrived to when you guys got up and Levi breached the door, at any time, did you hear any gunshots?

ST: Uh, no.

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AU: Okay. And then, when you were goin' from floor to floor, were you usin' the steps or the elevator?

ST: We were usin' stairs.

AU: Okay.

PQ: When you, um, I'm just goin' back. When you initially arrive, with the radio traffic and everything goin' on, could you hear gunfire, um, when you guys arrived?

ST: Um, you know what, I didn't hear any while we were outside at the Shark Reef, and I definitely didn't hear any when we were inside the casino. Um, but I wasn't outside the Shark Reef very long. It was, you know, we formed a team and went in pretty quick, so...

PQ: And then as far as, um, inside the actual, uh, the suspect's room, um, was there any shots fired?

ST: I believe, um, 'cause we thought there was a second suspect, um, after I heard this, like, uh, the second door that Levi breached, right when he breached it, I heard two rounds go off. I don't know who fired 'em, but that's initially what made us think there was someone in that second room, so we rolled in pretty quick, but I don't know who fired those.

PQ: And that second room, was it - was it empty?

ST: Yes, it was empty.

PQ: Okay, and then as far as, um, can you describe the condition of the room?

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ST: Um, what - all the rooms or just that one?

PQ: Just all of 'em, what you saw in there.

ST: Okay. Um, in the first initial main room we'll call it.

PQ: Mm-hm.

ST: I think it was, uh, 325, I think was the room number, I'm not sure. The first initial room, had - you want me to describe when I entered or after I had seen everything?

PQ: After.

ST: Okay. Um, suspect down with it looked like one gunshot wound to the face. Um, he was down with a revolver about two feet past his head. He was, um, he was down on his back, and feet facing east, head facing west.

PQ: Can you describe him?

ST: He was a white male, probably, uh, late fifties, early sixties. Um, dark clothing, pants and a shirt.

PQ: Okay, and then going back to the room?

ST: Uh, next to him was, like, a - a - I believe it was a - I'm not sure about the - the rifle type, but it was propped up on its, uh, bipod, it had a scope on it. He had - there had to be I'd say probably eight other guns, nine other guns in that main room, maybe more than that. There was - there was three or four stacked on two chairs that were put together. There was two U-sta- shaped chairs that were put together. There was about four or five guns, uh, rifles stacked in there. There was suitcases full of, uh,

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AR mags, or - or high capacity mags. Um, there was I don't know how many rounds they would hold, probably 50 to 100 round mags, stacked up near the window. There was guns on the couch. There was guns placed on each - like, each stool, bar stool that it had. Um, the whole room was wired. I - I have - honest - initially, when we rolled into that room, I thought it was wired with explosive, 'cause it was - we couldn't quickly tell that it was camera system, 'cause they - he has, like, um, he had duffle bags, or, uh, rolling suitcase bags with wires comin' out of 'em. It - it all, afterwards, seemed like it was attached to the camera system, but you couldn't tell at the time. Uh, that second room - the second actual hotel room had one gun on one bed and I think - I think one gun on each bed, maybe two on one bed, but there was gun on each bed, they were pointin' toward the window. That window was broken out. It faced, like, the - if you were lookin' at the concert area, it - it faced almost like the back of the stage. The room in which the suspect was down, the main room, that window was broken out and the - and the blinds were - or the curtains were flowin' and that one kinda faced directly east of the stage. The, um, bathroom was fairly normal. In that second room, he had a laptop set up with the camera system, and it was facin' the door. So, if we can backtrack to where we were comin' out that door, there's another door directly across and that was his second room. He had a camera system set up on a - on, like, a - a room service tray.

PQ: Okay.

ST: So, like a silver room service tray and he had cameras all set up here. He had, on the main door, he had a camera system set up on the peep hole. And all this was

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wired in to laptops that were in the h- in the room. In the adjacent room, to the main room, which was part of the main room, hotel room, to the left, there was - I didn't - I don't believe I saw any guns, I saw a lot of ammo boxes, like, empty, uh, rifle ammo boxes. But I didn't see any guns there. That was where his personal stuff was, like, a suitcase with some clothes and a laptop on the bed. It looked like, you know, just his personal items were in that room, so most - all the guns were in the main room and the second hotel room.

PQ: Okay, and then, um, my last question, just, um, that stack that went in, what was the configuration as far as like, um, uniforms, you know, 'cause we have K-9, SWAT, patrol officers, PD, so what - what was the actual configuration that you can remember?

ST: Um, I don't believe, in the initial entry, there was any uniformed patrol officers. There was, uh, Levi was first, he was in his SWAT greens, tactical vest greens. Uh, Sergeant Bitsko was in his K-9 greens. Newton was in his greens. I was in - in my plain clothes with the black tactical vest. Um, Donaldson was in a black tactical vest, plain clothes. The Walford or Walford, I'm not sure, um, how to spell it, but he was in a black tactical vest. Those were the si- that initially went in, yeah, no uniformed patrol officers.

PQ: Okay. Um, Detective Ubbens, you have any questions?

AU: Did, know, when Le- when you guys approached the door of that second room in the suite...

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ST: Yeah.

AU: Did Levi actually go and try to actually try and open the door, or...

ST: I was clearin' the bathroom.

AU: Okay.

ST: I know when I came out of the bathroom, he said, "It's locked."

AU: Okay.

ST: But I don't know if he went up or someone else went up, um, I think Walford was the only one else there, but it - I mean, it was dark, there's a lot of lights shinin' back and forth. I'm not sure who, if anybody checked it or - I was clearin' the bathroom.

AU: Okay.

PQ: And how were you guys takin' the lights out in the...

ST: We were - someone was tryin' to give instructions that if you squeeze these lights the plastic will come out and we can kinda break it.

PQ: Okay.

ST: 'Cause one patrol guy tried to break it and he was makin' so much noise...

PQ: 'Kay.

ST: We just decided that was a bad idea. We were liftin' each other up and we eventually took Levi's halogen.

PQ: Okay.

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ST: Little - it's a little mini ha- and we just pried it out and, it ca- you know, the lights went out.

PQ: Okay.

ST: So...

PQ: Okay, um, Officer Hamm, do you have any questions.

MH: Just briefly, um, when you guys first entered the establishment and you met up with the other individuals, the other officers, was everyone easy to identify? Meaning, everyone was dressed up in some type of gear that identified them as an officer?

ST: Yeah, at no point did I - inter- interact with anybody that I couldn't distinguish as an officer.

MH: So, everyone that was in that group...

ST: They were either in tactical gear, readily identifiable or they were in a Metro uniform.

MH: Perfect. Thank you, that's all I have.

PQ: All right. Um, Operator, this is the end of the interview. Uh, same people are present. The time is 1820 hours.

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**THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1820 HOURS.**

**PQ: AU: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)  
FIT2017-032**

**Reviewed by S6878M  
10/8/17**

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO  
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

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NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: OFFICER JOSEPH JONES (JJ), P# 16099

DOB:

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

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The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE A. UBBENS (AU), P# 13119, LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-03-17 at 1838 hours. Also present are Detective P. Quinteros (PQ), P# 9055, and Las Vegas Police Protective Association representative M. Hamm (MH), P# 6675.

AU: Operator, this is Detective Ubbens, Union, Baker, Baker, Union, Norah, Sam with the Force Investigation Team conducting a recorded statement under Event# 171001-3519 conducting an officer interview with Officer Joseph Jones, common spelling, P# 16099. The call sign of 3 Mary 15. Date of hire [REDACTED] Area of command of Convention Center. RDOs Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and normal work hours 1500 to 0100. Date of the incident was operating vehicle number 10916. This interview is reference to an active shooter that occurred on October 1st, 2017 2208

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hours in the area of 3950 South Las Vegas Boulevard, commonly known as Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino. Today's date is October 3rd, 2017, at 1838 hours. The statement is being conducted at 400 Martin Luther King Boulevard, Building C, fourth floor conference room. Also present is Detective, uh, P. Quinteros, P# 9055 and Officer Hamm, P# 6675 of LVPPA. Are you aware this interview is being recorded?

JJ: Yes.

AU: Before we get started, um, you're currently wearing your standard LVMPD uniform. Um, can you describe to me what uniform you were wearing the night of the active shooter?

JJ: I was wearing the same uniform, so the uniform of the day, um, tan.

AU: Okay, can you tell me about the equipment that you have on your uniform?

JJ: Um, I have my badge, um, name tag. I have my gun belt with, uh, my - my handgun, um, and my Taser, handcuffs, pepper spray, uh, baton.

AU: So fully equipped duty belt?

JJ: Yes.

AU: Okay, were you wearing your body-worn camera?

JJ: Yes.

AU: Okay, what kind of gun do you carry?

JJ: A Glock 17.

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AU: Okay, so, um, just start by telling us, uh, how you learned about the call, uh, what you learned and how you responded to it.

JJ: Okay, so from what I remember as far as location I - I believe I was on the Boulevard, uh, right around Fashion Show, maybe somewhere right in there, um, and I remember the first, uh, the first radio traffic being something along the lines of, uh, one of the - the overtime units saying, um, "We have multiple shots fired, um, at the Mandalay Bay." Um, "Active shooter." Um, and I, you know, went ahead and assigned myself and I started - I activated my body-worn camera, um, started rolling, um, lights and sirens to the, uh, towards the scene, uh, going, uh, south on the Boulevard. Um, took the Boulevard all the way down. On - on the way there, um, I heard some - some other radio traffic about multiple casualties, automatic gunfire, um, and also, um, that - before I got - I think it was right before I got there I started hearing things about the shooter's possibly at an elevated position. Um, but at that - at that point they didn't say exactly where. I assumed the Mandalay Bay but, um, so as I was approaching, um, I stopped a little short, um, on the far north side of the festival grounds, um, in the middle of Las Vegas Boulevard. Um, so it would - it would have been south of Reno but before you actually get to Mandalay Bay. There's like a turn and then the - the, um, north side of the festival grounds to exit, um, that's where I - where stopped right around there. Um, deployed by shotgun, um, and then another unit was at -- Mary, I believe it was Mary 13 -- um, Officer Johnson, uh, was arriving at the same time. Um, and based on the radio traffic that's why I kind of felt - or stopped there. Um, 'cause it still - it still wasn't clear if the

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shooter was inside or outside, so I first started traveling east towards the far south side of festival grounds, uh, with Officer Johnson. Uh, and we saw people pouring out running, um, going north on the, you know, on the Boulevard out of the fair grounds. Made contact with a few people, asked where the shooter was? Who, you know, if they could - any description, anything like that? And at that moment there was - there was no gunfire so, um, maybe about 15 seconds after that, uh, he - he opened up. Um, again and we heard the automatic rifle fire. And I turned and looked and I could see the muzzle flashes coming from up on the Mandalay Bay. Um, immediately started running, um, west back towards our vehicles. I'm still kind of southwest. Um, tried to get radio traffic over that the - that any arriving units should stop short and not go past, uh, kind of where we were. Could not, just couldn't get in on the radio. Um, even when I hit my emergency button I couldn't get through. Um, crossed west, um, and then met up with another arriving officer. I'm not sure who - who he was, but he had a, uh, rifle. We started a three man team. Um, we were getting, you know, I don't know what it was, sixty or whatever rounds. And then there would be a short break and then he would open up again. Uh, we started running, um, south, um, kind of hugging whatever cover we could find. Um, and then started moving west, um, towards - to hug the Lux- you know, whatever part of the Luxor we could, the parking lot that's just adjacent there. Um, as we were running, um, I believe it was the sergeant for the overtime of the event we ran into 'cause he was wearing, um, the - the actual, uh, vest, the - the - the, uh, bright green vest. Um, but I can't remember his name if I'm being honest. Um, we - we - and as - so we just kept

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moving, um, south towards, um, the Mandalay Bay. By then we kind of had - had an idea what his vantage point was so we were trying to go as far west so that we could enter the hotel, um, without being in his line of fire. But he was really pinning - pinning us down a lot. So we got stuck at one point and just - we couldn't move for maybe - it felt like forever but it was prob- I think it was probably just a couple of minutes. Um, kept moving south. Um, and by the time we crossed the street, uh, Mandalay Bay Drive to go into the Mandalay Bay we had maybe about an eight man element by then. Um, 'cause people just kept joining up. Um, we tried to get in the south - or it would have been -- I'm sorry -- the north doors of Mandalay Bay, and we couldn't get in. Um, and then we found an employee that could get us in through their concert hall there. Um, so the entire team entered through the concert hall. Uh, went up the stairwell. We form- we formed, uh, it was like either two four-man elements or there might have been nine, you know, it might have been uneven but we tried to break it up into two elements, uh, and we start - and by then the gun - we knew the gunfire had stopped for at least a couple of minutes. Um, the information we had when - when we entered the building was just we had an id- an approximation that it was 32nd floor because of security. Um, so when we went in our - because the gunfire had stopped what we - what the plan was was to try to contain him from leaving the building. So, um, we started moving through the casino in a group. Um, started clearing everybody out. Um, patting everybody down we could. Um, made contact with a couple security officers who, you know, said that he was on the 32nd floor that when - that he had a camera set up, um, and that he had

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screwed the fire exits closed and that when they tried to go up there that he, um, turned around and did automatic fire through the door, um, and that, you know, basically the only way to get up there was, you know, kind of a suicide thing. But, um, we tried to relay some of that traffic. I think we ended up having to do some of it over the phone, um, 'cause we couldn't get over the air. Um, we took positions all around the elevator areas and just kept trying to clear people out. So if he came down we could try to neutralize it. Um, and then I wanna say maybe 10 to 15 minutes after, uh, we - we were - we entered the building the first, uh, SWAT officer arrived. I think it was a SWAT sergeant, but I can't remember to be honest with you. Um, and briefed him very quickly, um, that the shooter was on the 32nd floor. Um, that, you know, all the information I just gave you guys and then, um, a security guard that had access to, um, the service elevators; um, took that - took him to, uh, move up. And he instructed us to - to try to hold and contain downstairs in case he had left the room and in case he came down and, um, so that's what we - we did. We just kind of held everything until we heard, uh, the breach over the radio. Um, and then, um, we just kept clearing and clearing and clearing, getting people out of there. And then after that, um, we pretty much went through every - every room in the entire hotel, um, with SWAT. Um, we were broken into like teams of like eight or ten with - with, uh, medics and went room to room to room to room to room, make sure there was nobody hurt or no other rooms that might be involved. Um, and pretty much did that until about 6:00 a.m.

AU: Um, at what point did you stop hearing the gunshots?

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JJ: Uh, once we were pinned down, um; in that - I can't remember if it was - I think it was in one of those spinx or whatever, I don't know, one of the things that the Luxor has for that few minutes, uh, there was a break and we - we jumped the fence and then kept moving. From that point until we actually entered, we - we didn't hear any other gunfire. So that's why when we got in there we - we were trying to get in there so quickly 'cause we thought, he's probably coming down now to just continue moving down the Boulevard or do whatever. Um, but I would say it was probably total guess maybe six minutes after my arrival, seven minutes after my arrival.

AU: What would your guess be between from the last gunshot you heard till when the radio traffic of the breach was?

JJ: I...

AU: I know it's hard, but...

JJ: Yeah, 20 minutes.

AU: Okay.

JJ: Maybe 20 minutes, yeah.

PQ: Um, were you, uh, are you rifle certified?

JJ: No.

PQ: Okay, so you didn't have a rifle?

JJ: No, I had a, uh, a shotgun with slugs.

PQ: Okay, so you...

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JJ: Yeah.

PQ: ...you did pull a shotgun. And then, uh, did you have a tack vest?

JJ: I did not, no.

PQ: All right, and then did you wear your helmet or...

JJ: Uh, I got it later in the evening...

PQ: Okay

JJ: ..but when I - I first arrived, no, I didn't...

PQ: Okay, it was just...

JJ: ...have time to...

PQ: ...too demanding?

JJ: Yeah.

PQ: Um, can you - when you were pinned down near the Luxor, um, could you hear - you can hear the rounds but could you hear impact rounds near you?

JJ: Um, not - not..

PQ: Or...

((Crosstalk))

JJ: ...real - real close but, um, I mean, you could hear the - that sound of the whizzing but, um, nothing near us was like, you know, indicating that rounds were like directly impacting like real - real close. Um, when I - when we were crossing the street we



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did hear impacts and there was definitely stuff impacting near and that's when we - 'cause we took cover behind our cars for maybe 30 seconds in between, um, magazines and that kind -- and then when he went through that magazine that's when we continued west.

PQ: When you first arrived and hooked up with the other officer you said that you saw - that it was coming from the Mandalay Bay, did you see the - the muzzle flash and...

((Crosstalk))

JJ: Uh, yeah, I did but I saw it when I was further, um, east.

AU: Mm-hm.

JJ: When I was by the fairgrounds, um, when he - when the - the first volley opened up after I arrived. That's when I turned around and I could actually see the muzzle flashes. It - because of, you know, it - to me it looked like it was like eight floors up but that's because of the way the glass is and everything. So as I went west the first officer I ran into, uh, he actually had a - a rifle so, um, I started telling him how many levels up it looked like it was coming from and then when he opened up again we kept peeking out and I was trying to get the - the guy - the officer with the rifle to kind of see if he could get a vantage point on, um, where it was coming from, but he was having a hard time.

AU: Did you ever see more than one muzzle flash at any time?

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JJ: No, I - I mean, as - as the, uh, as the shots were being fired I only saw the muzzle flash once. Um, and that was when I was on the east side of the Boulevard. Once I moved to the west for a very brief time and it must have been when he was in - at the farther, I guess it would be north, window, you could see just barely. Intermittently you could see some flashing, but then once we started to move a little bit more west couldn't see it anymore.

PQ: Can you - can you try to - can you tell me how many volley - volley of fires you think, um...

JJ: Uh...

PQ: ...that you heard while you were there?

JJ: Two. I wanna say six. At least six. Um, you know, and it sounded like a lot more than 30 like at a time, so I - like I just - I've heard a lot of people say 30 rounds at a time. To me it sounded like it was a little bit more than 30 going at a time.

PQ: And then as far as, um, the volley, so there's one and then pause and one and then pause. The sound of the weapon the suspect may have used what - what do you think? Was it - was it fast burst, was it slow?

JJ: It sounded - it sounded fully automatic. Like it didn't - it sounded so fast that it didn't seem like somebody could - could just do that with, you know, just by - by, uh, hitting the - the trigger over and over again. I mean, it sounded fully auto as it was going off absolutely.

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AU: What did security - you said security told you that the guy had, um, cameras.

JJ: Yes.

AU: What - what exactly did he tell you?

JJ: So he said that when they went up there there was a dinner tray, um, that was outside of his room, and he had set up a camera on that dinner tray so that he could see, um, people coming down the hallway and that he had, um, screwed the fire exit closed so that no one could come through the ex- so he would basically have the only approaching angle on camera.

AU: Mm-hm.

JJ: Um, and he said that when they first went up there to, you know, because of the reports that they were getting that, um, as they were coming down the hall way, um, he - he just started firing through the door. And he - he said one of their off- one of their security officers took a round to the leg or somethin' like that.

AU: Mmm.

JJ: Um, so that - that's - that's what we got from him.

AU: Okay - okay.

HAM: Just very briefly. Um, earlier when you first began you said you took the Boulevard to the scene. You meant Las Vegas Boulevard, correct?

JJ: Las Vegas Boulevard, yes.

HAM: Okay, just wanted to clarify that. And you were a single man unit that night, correct?

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JJ: Yes.

HAM: Okay, and until you met up with the other guys?

JJ: Yes.

HAM: That's all I have.

AU: You have anything?

JJ: Uh, I don't - I don't think so. I mean, nothin' that I think really, you know, would help as far as, you know, the first breach went over the air I heard that.

AU: Mm-hm.

JJ: But, um, the only thing, you know, is we weren't sure how long, you know, 'cause of all these other calls, um, you know, it just was a little confusing for a while whether we had one shooter, three shooters what was going on but, I mean, you know, for the most part I think everybody did a - a pretty awesome job of kind of putting teams together on the fly and getting in there and - and trying to - trying to contain him and take him out.

AU: All right, the time is 1855.

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**THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1855 HOURS.**

**AU: PQ: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)  
FIT2017-032**

**REVIEWED: 10/06/2017 A13119U**

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
**VOLUNTARY STATEMENT**  
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EVENT#: 171001-3519

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SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO  
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

---

NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: DETECTIVE ERIK PERKETT (EP), P# 14152

DOB:

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

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The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE S. KEITH (SK), P# 9190, LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-06-17 at 1311 hours.

SK: All right. Operator, this is Detective Keith, P# 9190, with the Force Investigation Team conducting a victim-witness officer interview as part of, uh, Event# 171001-3519. This interview is being conducted at LVMPD Headquarters, Building A, Third Floor Conference Room. Uh, the date is 10-6-2017. The time is 1311 hours. Uh, person being interviewed is Erik Perkett. First name, E-R-I-K. Last name is P-E-R-K-E-T-T. P# is 14152. His call sign for that night was R15. His date of hire is [REDACTED]. He is currently assigned to the Robbery Detail. His RDOs are Thursday, Friday, Saturday. His hours at 1500 to 0100. His vehicle number he was operating

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STATEMENT OF: DETECTIVE ERIK PERKETT (EP), P# 14152

on the night of the incident was 3796. Uh, no one is present - no one else is present.

Uh, are you aware this is being recorded?

EP: Yes.

SK: Okay. Um, what - what were you wearing that night?

EP: I was wearing, uh, my tactical vest that said police on the front and back with a Metro badge that had all my, uh, normal, uh, duty belt gear on it. Underneath that, I had a grey polo shirt with blue jeans and brown, uh, cowboy boots.

SK: Okay. Did you have a firearm?

EP: Yes. I did.

SK: Okay.

EP: I had two firearms.

SK: Okay. All right. So basically just tell me how you learned about the call and what your response was.

EP: Uh, on the day of, we were working and when I say we, um, myself, Detective Wyrock and Sergeant Jungy were up in Building A on the Fourth Floor working in the Robbery Bay when we received a call from Joe Parra. Uh, Joe Parra called and said, "Hey, there's an active shooter going on in Convention Center Area Command." Uh, we looked at CAD. We saw that there was a 415A in call that had been generated at Mandalay Bay. Sergeant Jungy then turned on, uh, his portable radio to the Convention Center Area Command and we could hear officers, uh, advising that

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there's an active shooter and we can hear automatic weapon fire in the background on the radio. Uh, due to that, we immediately left the office. Um, by we, I mean, myself and Detective Wyrock. Uh, we proceeded down to the parking lot and got in our separate, uh, take home vehicles. I played, uh, I put my tactical vest on prior to leaving and left the parking lot Code 3, Mandalay Bay, uh, based upon the active shooter. Uh, from there, I exited on Russell Road from the I-15 to the back of the, uh, Convention Center Parking Garage off of Russell. Uh, listening to the, uh, that's where I assigned myself and told, uh, dispatch on admin channel that I was arrived, uh, using my call sign R15 for the day. Uh, listening to the radio traffic on Convention Center, I proceeded to, uh, Hacienda and went to the east valet off of Hacienda. Um, parking in the east valet, uh, parking area underneath the awning. Um, I got out of my car. Locked it. And, uh, started walking south towards the boulevard trying to look up towards the building trying to figure out where the shooting was coming from. Um, I didn't hear any shooting or see any shooting at the time so I proceeded into Mandalay Bay advising people that there was an active shooter, to take cover. Um, proceeding into Mandalay Bay, I met up with, uh, Scott Murray in the lobby by registration and Scott Murray and I discussed that the -- we were given reports of an active shooter on floor 29 and floor 32. Uh, Scott Murray and I decided that we needed to go to floor 29 because there were already officers on floor 32 and take out that threat if necessary. Scott Murray and I then walked to the elevator bays right by registration where we met up with, uh, Sergeant BITsko, Stephen Trzpis, uh, Sergeant Matchko, uh, I believe, uh, Verl Conover and, uh, Dave Newton from K-9

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along with a couple other officers who are also in tactical gear. And, uh, we decided to split up into two four man teams. Uh, Sergeant Matchko would take his team up to the 32nd floor to aide patrol that was on that floor. And I went with Sergeant Bitsko's team which was, uh, Sergeant Bitsko, myself, Stephen Trzpis and Dave Newton to the 28th floor in order to work up to the 29th floor to take out that threat. Uh, we exited the 28th floor with, uh, Sergeant Bitsko being on with the rifle and our team having a ballistic shield. We then, uh, began clearing the hallways on the 28th all the way through the 31st floor because we didn't find an active shooter on the 29th floor. Um, going through the hallways, we could smell the gun powder heavily in the air. Uh, we didn't see anybody, uh, in the rooms. We didn't see any, uh, bullet holes or any ballistic markings on the walls that would indicate that there was an active shooter on the 29th. When we got to the 31st floor, we cleared the floor and we ended up meeting up with Levi Hancock who had a couple of officers with him. Uh, we made a quick decision to proceed to the stairwell next to the, uh, the suite for, uh, 130- the 135 area. And, uh, the minute we walked into the stairwell, we met with, uh, or we encountered a couple security guards and two patrol officers. They were stationed on the 31st floor and they advised us that, uh, they had heard automatic gun fire on the 32nd floor. Um, due to that, we walked by them and proceeded up the stairwell to the 32nd floor. Once we got to the 32nd floor, we found out that the door had been, uh, barricaded or locked and it would not open, uh, from the stairwell. We then used a, uh, small pry tool that Levi Hancock had with his tool bag and broke open that door. Also doing that we, uh, we decided that we wanted to break out the



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lights for officer safety and concealment in the stairwell, um, based upon our position next to Room 32-135 and the target. So then I took the pry tool and got, uh, lifted up by a couple of officers and broke the stairway lights in the stairwell. Um, once we broke the door in from the stairwell, we went into that little -- I don't know -- what'd you call like an alcove or a room between the hallway and the stairwell and we packed inside there. Same thing, we, uh, I use the pry bar. I was lifted up and I broke the light in the, uh, little tiny room to give us self-concealment and officer safety during our approach to the actual target room. Uh, we then used the ballistic shield to prop open the door and, uh, gain a little bit of, um, eyes on the door to see what we were working with. Uh, at that time, Sergeant Matchko's team, we realized was also working their way down the hallway at the same time that we were opening up the door and there was almost a blue on blue incident because, uh, we hadn't accurately, uh, notified each other of our whereabouts. So we advised Sergeant Matchko and his team to stay where they were at halfway down the hall and, uh, that's when Levi asked for, uh - uh, his - or went to go get his bag and got the, uh, explosive breach out of his bag. So Levi, we backed up into the stairwell while Levi, uh, set up the explosive breach and we set up a, uh, entry team. So the entry team, uh, as far as I know was made up of Levi, Sergeant Bitsko, Dave Newton, uh, Stephen Trzpis, uh, Officer Magsaysay, Matt Donaldson and, uh, Walford. I don't remember his first name. Um, they were - they were designated as the entry team 'cause they had rifles, uh, and that way it was an equal rifle on rifle, uh, entry. I designated myself as a rear guard and downed officer rescue with another officer that

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STATEMENT OF: DETECTIVE ERIK PERKETT (EP), P# 14152

I can't remember his name. Uh, we worked out a plan that hey, once we get up there and do rear guard, if one of them goes down, we're going to immediately evacuate them out of the room and bring them down and evacuate 'em out of the hotel for triage. Uh, once, uh, oh, we also had informa- we also began to get information that he possibly had the room next to him that that room was involved. Uh, I can't remember the room number. Uh, but that was the room where the, uh, room service cart was sitting outside of.

SK: Mm-hm.

EP: So we saw the room service cart and we saw wires going underneath the door. Uh, so that's also why we believed that it could be involved. Uh, we didn't know if he had maybe put explosives on the door. Um, but, uh, the idea was, Levi would, uh, blow the door and see if he responds with gunfire to the explosive breach. Um, if he didn't, then they would enter and we'd proceed with the entry plan. So this was communicated to Sergeant Matchko to advise him that there would be an explosive breach, that we would be entering into the suite upon the explosive breach and for his team to hold. So that way there was no blue, you know, any blue on blue incident, no one got shot. Um, once the explosive breach went off, we waited maybe a second or two where there was no gun fire and they proceeded with the entry plan. So all the officers that were, uh, deemed for entry, they went inside the entry way. Me and another officer moved up and placed ourselves, uh, in front of the second door where the room service cart was in case he decided to double back, uh, and try to take out the team that way. So once they cleared the - once they cleared that

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room, they advised that there was a second door leading to the second room and that's where they're going to make entry. So we kept our place on that door 'cause we didn't know if there was a second shooter or if it just, uh, the one shooter inside Suite 135 or if there was another one waiting in the other room.

SK: Mm-hm.

EP: So they placed the explosive breach on the, uh, the door inside the Suite 135 going into the other room. Um, when that went off, um, it sounded like there was some gunfire inside the room. I didn't see anybody. No one told me they were - they fired a gun but it sounded like there was some gunfire in the room.

SK: Mm-hm.

EP: Uh, so at that time, we maybe thought that there was another shooter involved so we kept our place and we had the other, uh, hallway team wait, uh, based upon the fact that no one was asking for assistance inside the room. Uh, they cleared that room and they came back out and said, "He's dead." Uh, at that point, we, uh, told everybody to get out of the room, it was a crime scene at that point. Because if we didn't have a second shooter, we didn't have any other threat inside the room, there was no point, uh, for us to be inside the room. Um, so at that point, uh, Levi and a couple other SWAT officers arrived and they decided they're - they needed to go do something else by clearing the hallways. Um, a lot of the other officers that went into the room also left the hallway. And myself and, uh, Officer Beason, formed up a

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team and we began clearing all 32 - all floor 32 to see if there was any more victims or guests that needed to be evacuated off the floor.

SK: Mm-hm.

EP: Um, we didn't find anybody injured, but we found there was additional guests that were kind of, uh, hiding inside the rooms and we had security help them get out. Um, after that, I proceeded back to Suite 135 where I stood outside the entire time with, uh, Verl Conover, uh, while Sergeant Matchko and Stephen Trzpis were inside the room gaining intelligence per the CP. Um, that maybe lasted a half hour and then they exited the room and we waited for FIT, uh, detectives to arrive.

SK: Mm-hm. Okay. So at any time during this, did you actually set foot in either room?

EP: No.

SK: Okay. So just kind of backing up a little bit, um, you - you said you arrived, I mean, we - we kind of assume, you know, where, but you said Convention Center Parking Garage. It -- that's at Mandalay Bay, correct?

EP: Yeah. The, uh, the Convention Center Parking Garage is on the, uh, Russell side of like Las Vegas Boulevard and Russell on that corner.

SK: Mm-hm.

EP: On the southwest corner and, uh, based upon the traffic on the radio with the boulevard, with people leaving and then trying to get ambulances in, I decided that was not a good, uh, ingress into the area.

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SK: Mm-hm.

EP: So I decided to do Russell Road and take the back way into Mandalay Bay.

SK: Okay. And then as you were clearing those - the rooms prior to getting up to the 32nd floor, were you guys -- did you have a master key? Were you kicking doors or in, opening doors or what -- how were you guys doing that?

EP: We didn't - we didn't clear any of the rooms from 28 to 31 unless they were opened and unlocked.

SK: Okay.

EP: Um, we were specifically, uh, clearing the hallways and looking for signs of an active shooter on those floors to ensure that there wasn't a secondary shooter.

SK: Okay. Uh, at any time, did you perceive while you were there at any time, did you perceive that you were being shot at or that somebody was actively trying to harm you?

EP: Um, it was only on the second breach when I thought I heard a couple of gunshots.

SK: Mm-hm.

EP: That maybe we were starting to take fire from the second room.

SK: Okay.

EP: Uh, it was at that point that that's when we thought there would - there could be a second shooter or that there could still be somebody involved. Um, and that was the only time that I thought that we would be in danger at that point. Um, I also thought

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we could be in danger by doing the explosive breach because we didn't have any intelligence on whether he had the doors, uh, wired for explosives.

SK: Okay. Okay. Uh, so did you see any officers discharge their firearms?

EP: No.

SK: Okay. Did you discharge your firearm at any time?

EP: No.

SK: Okay. Um, so these next questions that I'm going to ask, these are the administrative questions, okay?

EP: Yep.

SK: Um, you were already asked that. Um, do you feel as though you were adequately prepared and trained to handle this situation?

EP: Yes. I thought that, uh, the MACTAC training that we have gotten up to this point, uh, based upon other incidents that we've had in the past.

SK: Mm-hm.

EP: Uh, we were able to coordinate a team leader, coordinate a four man team and accurately and efficiently clear hallways appropriately to get up to where we needed to be where the suspect was.

SK: Okay. Uh, is there any training the department might need to institute to better prepare officers to handle a situation such as this?

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STATEMENT OF: DETECTIVE ERIK PERKETT (EP), P# 14152

EP: I will say that, uh, the times that I used the shield, I had not been accurately trained on using the shield. Uh, I don't know if that was something maybe that was done more to patrol than it was to officers in the Bureau.

SK: Mm-hm.

EP: Um, but I was very unaware of how to, uh, accurately and efficiently use a ballistic shield in doing, uh, clearing procedures. And so I thought maybe that was something that could be better taught, uh, to officers, especially detectives in the Bureau, in case something like this happens because we do have a mixture of patrol officers and plain clothes officers coming together.

SK: Mm-hm.

EP: Um, I think also the communication that we had was okay. I think there was a lot of times where we were trying to advise officers on the radio of our location inside of the Mandalay Bay, but we were being overrun with other radio traffic obviously because of the amount of people injured and the amount...

SK: Right.

EP: ...of triage that needed to be done, that maybe we could have, um, split up a channel where the entry teams inside Mandalay Bay were working off one channel so they could communicate and the triage was working off a separate channel so they could accurately communicate.

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STATEMENT OF: DETECTIVE ERIK PERKETT (EP), P# 14152

SK: Um, is there any equipment the department might need to consider that could have better assisted you?

EP: The -- once we got up to the 32nd floor, we quickly realized that the ballistic shields that we had were not rifle graded. So it was useless to have that ballistic shield going into the room.

SK: Correct.

EP: And making that entry or for me to have it as a rear guard because it wouldn't have stopped his, uh, rifles that we now know that he had inside the room.

SK: Right.

EP: Um, same with the helmets. Our, you know, our ballistic helmets are not rifle graded and so again, if we - if one of us had gotten shot in the head, it would've immediately killed that person because, I believe, the helmets are only graded up to like a 12 gauge shotgun. Um, I also feel that, you know, more rifle officers would have been better. Um, there's a lot of officers that aren't rifle certified and having officers that are all rifle certified and having a, you know, if every officer is rifle certified and every officer knows how to use a rifle, then if an officer goes down, I could pick his rifle up and know how to immediately use it.

SK: Right.

EP: And stop the action.



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STATEMENT OF: DETECTIVE ERIK PERKETT (EP), P# 14152

SK: Okay. Um, is there - is there anything that we haven't discussed or something that maybe you thought of again or any questions I have not asked or covered or something that's important that you want to get out about this incident?

EP: No.

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STATEMENT OF: DETECTIVE ERIK PERKETT (EP), P# 14152

SK: Okay. Uh, operator, this is the end of the interview. Same persons are present. The time is 1329 hours.

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THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1329 HOURS.

SK: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)  
FIT2017-032

REVIEWED BY P. QUINTEROS P #9055 ON 10/10/17

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SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO  
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

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NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: OFFICER MATTHEW DONALDSON (MD), P# 12935

DOB:

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

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The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE K. PLOENSE (KP), P# 6269, LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-03-17 at 1820 hours. Also are Detective M. Scilimenti (MS), P# 6239, and Las Vegas Police Protective Association representative B. Yant (BY), P# 6956.

KP: Operator, this is Detective K. Ploense, P# 6269, with the Force Investigation Team conducting a recorded statement with Matthew, M-A-T-T-H-E-W, Donaldson. Ah, that's D-O-N-A-L-D-S-O-N. P# 12935. His call sign is George Charlie 45. Ah, his date of hire is [REDACTED] His current assignment is, ah, Gang Vice Bureau. Um, I'm sorry, your, ah - your squad number?

MD: GC40.

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MATTHEW DONALDSON (MD), P# 12935

KP: GC40. Ah, his RDO's are Thursday, Friday, Saturday. His hours of operation are 1500 to 0100 and his vehicle number is 9645. This interview is in reference to an officer involved shooting that occurred on 10-01-17 at 2208 hours in the area of 3950 South Las Vegas Boulevard, Las Vegas, Nevada. Ah, which is the Mandalay Bay, ah, Casino and - Hotel and Casino. Today's date is 10-03-17 and the time, current time is 1820 hours. This statement's being conducted at 400 South MLK, building 'C', Las Vegas, Nevada, 89106, which is the Metro Headquarters. Also present is Michael Scilimenti, P# 6239 and his, ah, PPA Representative Bryan - Bryan Yant, P# 6956. Um, Officer - Detective Donaldson, are you aware this interview is being recorded?

MD: Yes.

KP: Okay, before we get started you're currently wearing the standard LVMPD uniform.. Is that correct?

MD: Yes.

KP: However, on that night if you could describe exactly what you wearing on the night of the incident and your equipment please.

MD: I was wearing a, ah, gray in color Under Armor long sleeve button-up shirt. Blue Levis jeans, I had a pair of Ariat cowboy boots on. Um, I had, ah, a green in color tac vest that consisted of, ah - I had a Taser, flashlight. Two rifle magazines, three pistol 9mm magazines to a Glock. Glock 17. Ah, on the front of my chest it says, ah, on the right side on a black patch in yellow writing large police lettering. Says, 'Gang

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MATTHEW DONALDSON (MD), P# 12935

Unit' underneath that. Ah, the left side of my chest is a Metro, ah, Velcro badge it says 'Metropolitan Police' on it and the back side of my vest it says, ah, 'Police Gang Unit' black patch and yellow lettering. Um, I did not have a helmet on at the time. I think that's about as best as I can describe it.

KP: 'Kay. Um, and.

MD: And I also had a - ah, my rifle with me as well.

KP: Rifle, okay. And no body worn camera?

MD: No.

KP: Body worn camera, correct? None, okay. So you're - so you had a Glock 17?

MD: Yes, on my chest.

KP: A Glock 19?

MD: Yes. Concealed.

KP: And then your rifle slung?

MD: Yes.

KP: Okay. And the model of one of the Glocks was 17 you said?

MD: Yes.

KP: A Glock 19 and then a Troy 22- .223 platform rifle.

MD: Yes.

KP: Okay. Ah, in which both Glocks would be 9mm and of course the rifle is a .223?

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MATTHEW DONALDSON (MD), P# 12935

MD: Yes.

KP: Ah, the serial number for the Glock 17 you've already told me it's [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] And it is unknown at this time what the Glock 19 or the rifle serial numbers are but those are rifle - those are weapons you normally qual with every quarter?

MD: Yes.

KP: Okay. Okay, um, so let's get started. You're on duty, how did you hear about the call? We can take you back to that night.

MD: We were - ah, I say we, my squad GC40 we were in the 'B' building 3rd floor, Gang office. Ah, my Sergeant Tim Stovall informed us at about 10:08, 2208 that there was an active shooter, ah, in Convention Center. We left the - the office. The, ah - as the squad went down to the parking garage. Um, put on my tac vest and, ah, grabbed my rifle out of the back of my truck. I picked up, ah, Officer Blake Walford who is gang enforcement that was riding with us in investigations that night. Um, Blake got his tac vest, ah, rifle plates, ah, out of his vehicle and his rifle. Um, he got, you want me to describe his clothing? What he was wearing, okay. So he got in my truck with me, it was probably 2210, 2211-ish by that time. Got, ah - started rolling Code 3 down, ah, on the 15 so it was from Charleston to the 15 south. As we were rolling south we were just listening to radio traffic on Convention Center Area Command to get the latest updates where the shooter was or most updated info as far as best, ah - ah, course of approach. And, ah, the officers on the radio and dispatch were

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MATTHEW DONALDSON (MD), P# 12935

saying, "Do not approach from the north. You would be in direct fire from wherever the shooter was - he was believed to be in a higher level floor of the Mandalay Bay somewhere. So I did not go off of Tropicana, I went south on the 15 to Russell. I exited Russell. West or I'm sorry east to the Boulevard. I stopped at the intersection of the Boulevard and Russell. Dismounted the vehicle and at that time there was a sergeant, ah - um, Bryce Martinez. And then Brian Bunitsky and, ah, Mike Teal were at that location. And I said, "We need to get inside," and there was a group of officers that were, ah, saying over the radio that they were pinned down in front of the - the casino somewhere. So, from where we were at the Russell and the Boulevard we get - I knew I - from working formally or Convention Center PD I knew I can get into the backside of Mandalay Bay in - in through the convention center down that long corridor and get in. So I said, "If we get in here we can get out to the lobby and we can probably just do officer rescues if they're - if they're pinned down." So, we ran as a group, um, from the Boulevard and Russell toward, ah, the convention center. Ah, like Mandalay Be- or not the beach the Daylight Beach Club entrance on the, I guess it's the southeast side of Mandalay Bay. And I guess me and Blake were kind of moving a lot faster than the rest of the group and we were kind of way ahead and we're trying to get the rest of the group to catch up with us but, um, I don't know if - I wasn't back there with them they were - ah, if they were trying to come up with another plan or - or something but just kept yelling for them like, "We need to get up we need to get in here." And we made entrance into the - the convention center hallway and, ah, at that point, ah, kept going, ah, I guess it would be north through

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MATTHEW DONALDSON (MD), P# 12936

the in- inside of the property through the convention center hallway. There was civilians running out towards us. But I think that me and Blake were in plain clothes and they didn't see uniforms initially they - they were - started screaming when they saw us until we started yelling, "Police, police, police," and waving 'em out like, "You need to come out, come out, come out." They were running away from us at first. They didn't know who we were. But got into the casino. Um, at that point I had, ah, just like Bryan's wearing now a pair of Ariat cowboy boots on my - my feet were like tore up so I took my boots off 'cause I - it hurt so bad to have boots on so I took 'em off. And just threw 'em over by the elevator bank. Got to the elevator bank and that's where I met up with Levi Hancock and he was in full SWAT gear. He's Zebra 20 and, ah, at that point, um, he knew or everybody fair- pretty much knew that the shooter was on the 32nd floor 'cause the security guard had already been shot on the 32nd floor. So there was a lot of reports of other shooters in other areas but as far as we knew inside of Mandalay Bay that's where this shooter was. And, ah, I think me, Blake and Bunitsky, um, went into the elevator with Levi. And we got engineer keys to go to the 32nd floor. We went up to the 32nd floor and got into like an atrium that's a tri-hallway. Ah, inside the atrium there was a couple of detectives up there and Sergeant Matchko was in the hallway. And he had a couple of officers down the target hallway. That were kind of stuck, ah, because that suspect had - had shot out the end door, the suite was at the very endcap of the - of the hallway and he had shot out that door. And they were kind of trapped in that - in that corridor so. Levi took me and Brian. And I'm not sure who else. Oh, me and Brian and Blake. Ah, down to



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the 32nd or 31st floor. We went north through that corridor and, ah, we knew that there was a stairwell that was almost connected to where the suspect's door was on the 32nd floor. Once we got in that stairwell there was another group of officers that, ah, names I, escape me besides a few. I got up into that stairwell corridor. And there was Steve Trzpis was at the door. Ah, inside that corridor closest to the - this is without entering that corridor but it would have been two closed doors. And then opening that second door would have been the suspect's door at the end of the corridor on the left. So Steve Trzpis had a shield. Um, Dave Newton was up there, Josh Bitsko, me, Levi, ah, Perckett. Um, Blake and, ah, Bunitsky were up in that - in the - kind of in that little, ah, doorway area and, um, Levi was trying to get us all to, ah - to take the fluorescent lights and try to like disconnect 'em or break 'em but - while trying to be quiet about it. So we were trying to figure out a plan and, ah, just listening for - for any activity in that - in that room. Levi, um, was trying to transmit over his radio that he was gonna breach the door. It didn't transmit so I called Will Huddler direct on my phone. And Will answered the phone and I put him right on the phone with Levi. And Levi just let him know, "Hey, I've got a group of officers with me. Ah, we're gonna breach this door. And he's gonna put a charge on the door." So he took a charge out of his tac vest. Um, we very quietly opened up the doors and just trying to monitor what was going on in that hallway. Once Levi got his charges set up. He quickly got outside in the hallway. He put the charge on the door. Came back inside with us. And, ah, he tran- he was able to transmit that he was gonna breach the door to see if he got any type of response out of the - out of

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that doorway. So his intent was that if we blow the door he's gonna think we're gonna coming in immediately and he's gonna start shooting out of that door. So everybody was stacked up. Um, the same people I'm talking about but the order I don't really remember. I was - we were all - I mean it was in a space about the size of this table so there's seven grown men standing in the 4 foot box. So, um. Levi got his charge set up. He transmitted over the radio, ah, that he was gonna breach the door. "Breach, breach, breach." And he blew up the - blew the charge and it blew the door. We opened - Levi was point at that time. He opened the door slowly and just started cutting the pie. And he could, ah - he could see a lot of rifles inside of the room. The door wasn't completely off. At that point we - as we started to go in he was just - we were all taking Levi's lead in - in a stack. And, ah, we removed the rest of the door at that time I could see a Sean, is O'Connell. Not O'Donnell, O'Connell, ah, running and he was in his full SWAT gear. Ah, running down the hallway as we were coming out of that stairwell. He was with, ah - ah, Mags - ah, Magceycey, Officer Magceycey from, ah, South Central and then we just flowed into the room. It was a very large open room that it was kind of like - like I said it was a endcap room and it there was kind of 180. So, ah, Levi had gone right and I'm not sure who went with him, what officers went with him, I was behind Sean. And I went with Sean to the left. I could see as I entered the room there was probably 25 to 30 rifles. Ah, just kind of intermittently spread out across the floor. Ah, a few of the rifles were set up like in battle positions at the broken windows on bipods. I could see that there was a like a range finder and a spotting scope that was set up on a bipod or tripod. I could

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see one dead white male. Ah, like a shaved head, like gray hair. He looked to be about 55. You know, he was bleeding from the face and laying straight on his - on his back. His hands were at this sides. His feet were facing, ah, towards the window. We passed the body. We went to the left into the room. And started clearing a bedroom. And stayed behind Sean cleared the bathroom. Um, came back out cleared that room. And at that time they were having trouble on the other side of the, ah - on the right side there's another bedroom and the door couldn't be breached and they were trying to kick it but then, ah, he couldn't get through so Levi put another charge on that door and, ah, breached that door. And I remember Sean saying - 'cause none of us had rifle pla- well some of us had rifle plates but he was one of the few officers that had, ah, rifle plates so he and Levi set up on the door. When they breached the door that Levi and Sean were gonna go in just because they had the plates. And, ah, once they - they blew that door, that interior door I - there was so much dust and, ah, just drywall and stuff in the air I couldn't see who even made entry into that room. But it was - it was cleared very quickly at that point. And at that I was kind of just back in a little small corridor by like this kitchen-kitchenette thing, ah, with Sergeant Bitsko. And once that room is cleared, ah, Levi came out and just - we just made the scene static. Everybody got out of the room, cleared the room and then we just started clearing the other doors that were, ah, outside of the other - outside the, ah - the hallway. I mean in the hallway outside of that room and just started doing, ah, welfare checks down the hallway. And then, ah, went back downstairs after it cleared like one or two rooms with Blake. And, ah, I

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located my boots again in the - in the - in the lobby. I didn't put 'em back on because my feet hurt so bad. But went back out towards the cars to get my truck and I got assigned to a force protection team. And then, ah, ended up getting a pair of shoes from a firefighter who gave me a pair of his sneakers and I jumped on a force protection team and went in with Clark County FD to, ah, the actual concert location and started to look for survivors and tagging, ah, deceased bodies inside the - the concert for the next 30, 40, 50 minutes.

KP: Um-'kay. I just got a couple questions for you. When you first got there you parked over by the Shark Reef, convention area.

MD: It was right in the intersection of Russell and the Boulevard dead center.

KP: Oh, right in the...

MD: Dead center on the Boulevard.

KP: Did you hear gunshot when you first got there?

MD: When we were pulling up as were driving I - I could hear gunshots in the distance but I - but when I got out of the truck I don't recall if I heard any gunshots when I got out.

KP: Running up there you didn't hear any? Not sure?

MD: Mm, no.

KP: Okay. Um, you were saying, ah, corridor, is that - what - what do you mean by the corridor? The hallway or?

MD: On the 32nd floor or?

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KP: Yes, you kept saying - you kept saying...

MD: There's - there's...

KP: ...corridor and I'm kind of confused what the corridor.

MD: ...a long, long hallway.

KP: Yeah.

MD: And it was - and I mean it's probably - once you're inside the - if you're looking at the Mandalay Bay those long, ah, offshoots that the building was like a - you I know, like 'Y' sort of.

KP: Okay.

MD: The hallways are about...

KP: So just the hallway and...

MD: ...100 meters long, yeah.

KP: And down the hallway is the rooms on each side?

MD: Right.

KP: Okay, okay.

MD: And at the very end there's a double door that was the suspect's room.

((Crosstalk))

KP: So how did you get onto that floor?

MD: The elevator through the use of the engineer's keys.

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KP: Okay, did you come right up to the 32nd?

MD: Thirty-second floor.

KP: Okay. Then how did you get down the hallway or corridor?

MD: We went down to the 31st floor.

KP: Okay and then back...

MD: And then walked down that same corridor.

KP: Uh-huh.

MD: Underneath through...

KP: Underneath...

MD: ...under the 32nd floor.

KP: ...two floors down.

MD: One floor down.

KP: One floor, okay.

MD: Walked up the stairwell which is - the doorway comes out right at the suspect's door.

KP: Okay. So you walked up the stairway.

MD: Yep.

KP: Did you have any trouble getting through that - that - was there a door at the top of the stairway?

MD: There's two doors.

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KP: Two doors. Any trouble getting in through any of those doors? That you remember.

MD: Yes. Ah, I don't know why but one of 'em was like, ah, locked from like the inside. So I don't know how that happened or if it was like a automatic lock thing or something that the - the hotel. Like an automatic electronic thing but it was - one of the doors was locked if it - I can't remember if it was the in- the initial interior door from the stairwell into the little space between the two doors. Or if it was the second one.

KP: Okay. And how'd you get through the door then if it was, appeared lock?

MD: Ah, Levi had some breaching tools and just popped the door.

KP: Okay, okay. Okay. Um, okay, anything Mike?

MS: Do you remember how many people entered the room with you?

((Crosstalk))

MD: Ah, when we were in the initial small little space between the two doors it was me, Steve Trzpis, Dave Newton, Sergeant Bitsko, Blake and Levi. And as far as anybody else behind me.

KP: No, entering the suspect's room, I'm sorry.

MD: I know but I'm saying...

KP: Oh.

MD: ...as far as anybody behind me.

KP: Yeah.

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MD: I don't know if any of them did but I did see Sean and Mags run in right as I was coming out we - so it - what's that what'd I say Steve, me, Blake, Bitsko, Newton, Levi. One, two plus - so eight went in the room. But anybody else that came in after that I have no idea.

KP: Um, did you discharge your weapon at all?

MD: No.

KP: Did you hear any gunshots inside the room?

MD: I don't recall. I mean there was explosions and stuff I. And I was on the other side with, ah, Sean and none of us did.

KP: Okay. But two pistols and a rifle none of 'em discharged?

MD: Mm-mm.

KP: You didn't discharge any, okay. PPA Rep. Yant?

BY: Nothing.

KP: Okay. You good, okay. Operator, this is the end of the interview. The same people preset, same date. And the time is 1839 hours. Thank you.

MD: Thanks.

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**THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1839 HOURS.**

**KP: MS: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)  
FIT2017-032**



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SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO  
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

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NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: SERGEANT WILLIAM MATCHKO (WM), P# 8525

DOB:

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

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The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE C. JEX (CJ), P# 5597, LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-03-17 at 1840 hours. Also present is Las Vegas Police Managers and Supervisors Association representative J. Roberts (JR).

CJ: Operator, this is Detective C. Jex, P# 5597, with the Force Investigation Team, conducting a recorded witness officer interview. Ah, reference event# 171001-3519. Ah, interview is with Sergeant William Matchko, M-A-T-C-H-K-O. P# 8525. His call sign during this incident was 677V as in Victor. His date of hire of [REDACTED] He's with the Gangs Vice Bureau. Ah, his RDO's are Sunday - Saturday, Sunday, Monday. And he was driving vehicle 4903. This interview is reference an active shooter that occurred on 10-01-2017 at approximately 2208 hours. Ah, at the Mandalay Bay Resort located at 3950 Las Vegas Boulevard South. Today's date is

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10-03-2017 at, ah, 1840 hours. This statement is being conducted at LVMPD Headquarters. Ah, building 'C' on the 3rd floor in the conference room. Also present at the interview is PMSA Attorney Jay Roberts. Um, all right, Sarge, are you aware that this interview is being recorded?

WM: Yes.

CJ: All right. Ah, before we get started I'd like for you to describe what you were wearing the night of the incident.

WM: Um...

CJ: And the gear that you may have donned, ah, for that incident.

WM: So the night of the incident I, ah, put - I was wearing blue jeans, black shoes. I put on - when I - when I responded to the incident I put on our LVMPD bicycle short sleeve bicycle sho- shirt. Um, on that bicycle shirt is, um, our LVMPD patches on the shoulders as well, ah, sergeant chevrons on the shoulders. It's a yellow shirt that says 'Metro Police' on the back and it has a cloth badge on the front. Ah, over that shirt I put on my, ah, hard plate carrier. The hard plate carrier, ah, says 'Police' across the front and it also says 'Police' across the back. I also put on a, ah - ah - um, ballistic helmet. The helmet says 'Police' on patches as well as my name on the helmet as well. I also, ah, deployed my AR15 rifle which is a, um, Rock River AR15. With a - an aim point red dot sight and a flashlight on it.

CJ: 'Kay.

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WM: Oh, I also, ah, put my duty belt on my, ah, waist which had all my required gear.

CJ: Okay and on that duty belt, ah, is there a handgun?

WM: Yes, a Glock 17. The Glock 17 has a, ah - a light on it and an extended magazine.

CJ: And then the rest of the equipment is just related to what you would use as a police officer, ah, the rest of the gear that's on your belt?

WM: Correct.

CJ: Okay. All right, um, now what I'd like for you to do is, ah - ah, let's go into this incident and have you start with where - ah, where you were when you got the call what - whether it was dispatched or you self-initiated. And then just walk me through all the way through the incident.

WM: Okay. Um, on that day I was - it was my regular day off. I had got called - I'm on call for vice investigations. I was with my detectives we were getting ready to serve a search warrant over near the Gold Coast Hotel on Gannet Circle. Ah, we were getting ready to make entry. As we were getting ready to make entry I heard - there was a patrol car out there and I heard the, ah - the radio traffic about the active shooter and I could hear the gunfire in the background. There was another sergeant that was on-scene with me, Sergeant, ah, Benjamins was at the search warrant. And based on that I, ah, made the decision that I was gonna go assist with the active shooter. Because I have experience in the military with these situations. So, ah, in that - in my work pickup truck which is vehicle 4903, a plain blue Chevy Silverado I had my gear. I put all my gear on when I was at, ah, the scene of the search warrant.

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And then I turned the radio channel over to Convention Center and drove Code 3 to the Mandalay Bay. The reason I could hear the- I could hear that the, um - I could hear that the, ah, people were getting shot at the Route 91 Harvest Festival. Um, and I can hear the chaos going on over there but then I also heard that, um, there were reports of an active shooter on the 29th floor and the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay. And that there were also other possible multiple active shooters. So I drove down Flamingo, got on the 15 and headed to Mandalay Bay. I got off on Russell. As I was getting off on Russell I could hear and as I'm pulling into the west valet of Mandalay Bay I could hear, um, reports that a security guard had been shot inside, um, and it was conflicting stories whether it was on the 29th or the 32nd floor. So I had all my gear on. And I saw a patrol car or two in the west valet. I didn't know how ma- if there were any officers or how many officers were there. I saw those two vehicles. So I entered the west valet, um, side of the casino. And, ah, I'm familiar with the Mandalay Bay 'cause I used to work security there. So I proceeded across the casino floor with my AR. Ah, I stopped at the gift shop retained a water 'cause I was thirsty. And then, ah, when I turned the corner into the elevator core I saw a gr- I saw a security guard go by the elevator core. I told him to take me over to the elevator core 'cause I fig- I figured they were pinned out, um, to pre- to prevent anybody from going up. So when I turned the corner there was a group of, um, officers on the elevator getting ready to go up. So I jumped on the, ah - on the elevator with them. It was probably like five or six officers. I just remember, ah, Jacoby Burns was on there. Um, I think Farrah Edge was on there. I think Conover

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was on there and a couple other people that I don't know who they are were on there with, ah, a couple of the security guards. Based on the fact that they said it was either the 28th or 29th floor that's where the guy - the security officer been shot I sa- I told him to take us to where the security officer got shot. I believe that we got off on the 28th floor 'cause that's where the initial reports and it was the closer location. So we got off on that floor and we began clearing the floor and we're looking - we're listening for the gunfire. And we didn't hear anything and by the time we got down a couple of the hallways there was no indication of a shooting happening. There was nothing in the hallway, there was no people screaming there was nothing going on. So I figured we were probably on the wrong floor. And then I ask- I think I - I believe I asked another security guard what - I said, "What floor did the security guard get shot? Where is he at?" And they said he - they had already taken him off the property or they already got him out. But it was on the 32nd floor. Sometime in that time I heard another team was in the vicinity, like they were on the 31st or 32nd floor and they were making their way up. So I took the team that I had on the 28th floor. We got in the stairwell and we went up the stairwell to the 32nd floor. So when we got the 32nd floor we did not arrive on the wing - ah, the wing of the hotel where the, ah - the shooting had occurred. We arrived on a different wing, I don't know which one it was. So when we got off we started making our way down one of the wings looking for the gunfire, again, and when we got to the elevator core I could see another group of officers in the suspect's wing. Um, probably about a 1/4 of the way down. And when I got to that point I could see a security guard. Ah, manager was

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standing about 20 yards down the hallway and I actually used to work with him. And I saw him and I asked - and he had his gun out and I asked him, you know, "What's - what's going on down there?" So I was relaying message to him and then I asked him if they had a sergeant down there. And they said, no, there wasn't. So, I gave somebody my rifle because I knew I was gonna have to low crawl down there because they said that the guy had fired a bunch of rounds. Um, through the door down the hallway. And when you looked down hallway you could see the just debris from gunfire what - what apparent gunfire down the hallway. So after I passed off my rifle 'cause I had too much gear. Ah, I also - I was also carrying a green bag that said 'Police'. With all my ammo, I forgot about that. So I low crawled down the hallway to the security guard and asked him, you know that was going on. He said the team is up there and they wasn't a sergeant up there. So I made it up to where the team was at and they were probably about 1/4 of the way down the hall. And I asked 'em what was going on. And that team was comprised of, ah - I think Trzpis - no, no, Trzpis wasn't there. There was a lot of random people there I don't remember exactly who was there at that time.

CJ: That's all right, don't worry about it.

WM: So there's probably - probably about five or six of 'em there and they were on both sides of the hallway. One guy was prone out in the middle of the hallway. I told that guy, "Get the fuck - get to the side because if the guy starts shooting again, um, we don't want to be getting hit." Um, so I pushed them to the sides of the hallway, all of 'em and I told 'em to get into the hotel rooms if they could. One of 'em had already

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retrieved the key from the - from the security officer so we had a master key to open the doors. And at that time I could look down the hallway and I could see the food ser- or the, ah, room service cart. And the room service cart was completely out of place. There was just something weird about it and the closer you got you could see that there's wires hanging off the food service cart and it was just arranged in a manner that made me think that it was probably a booby-trap bomb or something. Like that there was gonna be trip wire down there. So I - I guess at that point I was more concerned about the cart than the door. And making sure that no officers crossed over that cart. So since we were 1-4 of the way into the way I had the guys keep proceeding down the hallway so we're bounding down the hallway. Um, and providing cover as we went down the hallway. And as we're doing that, um, we kicked a few doors in and we used the key card to open a few door doors. Um, so we start - we started evacuating rooms. A lot of the rooms had already been empty but some of 'em still had onesies and twosies, civilians just, ah, sheltering in place. So when we found them we were able to, ah, to get them down. Or get them to the elevator core and pass them off to the other officers in the elevator core and send them away. So by the time we got up to about the halfway point of the hallway that's when, um, Levi Hancock and Sean O'Donnell showed up from SWAT. And as I'm listening on the radio there's - there's a million other things going on. There's all the carnage but then there's also reports of other active shooters. And I hadn't heard any gunfire but the security supervisor told me that the security guard just got pulled away so the gunfire here had just happened before I got up there. So now the



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concern is is this gonna be a barricade or are we gonna treat this as a - as an active shooter and go in there right now? Third concern is this a bomb on this cart? When we walk by this are we gonna trip wi- trip wire and is everybody gonna die. So Sergeant Bitsko at about that same time came up on the radio and he I think was on the 31st floor and he was making way his down the 31st floor to head toward the stairwell. So him and I are kind of trying to - to coordinate back and forth. Um, what we're gonna do. I knew he was moved down and they had a shield. We didn't have a shield in our group. We had multiple rifles. We're going down the hallway, we're clearing rooms. At about one point, um, that's when Levi and Sean showed up. When they showed up I knew Sergeant Bitsko was th- was down there and I told Levi, I said, "Hey, look, go back to the elevators, go downstairs, meet up with Sergeant Bitsko," - I was like, "I don't want you guys going past the cart, I don't want past the cart. Go back down, walk the floor under and come up the stairwell by the suite so you're past the cart." So Levi took off and Sean O'Donnell stayed with us and covered down on the, ah - on the hallway. At - a couple seconds later two of the SWAT sniper guys showed up. And they proned out in the hallway and were trained on the door. As we kept trying to move up the hallway. And you know, we're - we're - it's - we had to go slow down the hallway because we couldn't expose ourselves for a long time. So we're not getting struck by gunfire coming down the hallway. So they're - they're proned out in the hallway. O'Donnell's got the side and then me and the, ah, other guys are moving forward and we're opening doors and we're getting people out. We get to one room and there's a baby in there and it's by itself. And

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the kid is screaming - the - one of the officers picks the baby up, I go in, I grab the baby. I start, I run down the hall with the kid. Um, the mom came out of somewhere, I don't even know where she came from, out of a different room ac- down, she came down the corridor somehow. But what I'm assuming is is when the gunfire originally happened she ducked into a different room, um, to get - to get away from the gunfire and she couldn't get back to her room. So, I ran down the hallway with her. Gave her the baby and had sent her down the elevator with the other officers. A couple of onesies and twosies were still coming out of the rooms and that's causing a lot of confusion trying to get them down. So we're slowly making our progress up towards the, ah - the food service cart. At the same time Sergeant Bitsko was already ma- had already gotten to the, ah - the stairwell with his team. And he was on the radio and you could hear the radio traffic between him and I and he's like, "We're gonna - we're gonna move for- we're at the stairwell," - and I got on the radio, I told him, "Don't go along the stairwell." There was one point in the whole time that I switched channels and I think it went over to Northeast. And I was relaying all the information 'cause I couldn't get across the radio. Um, I was relaying all my information to the Northeast dis- dispatcher. And I told her she needed to go over to the Convention Center and let them know what was going on. Because Lieutenant Huddler was coming on the radio and asking if we had the floor contained. And he wanted to know who was up on the floors 'cause we were trying to come up with a plan as to what we were gonna do as far as making entry. So I told the girl that on the Northeast channel and then I went back to Convention Center and still people talking

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all kinds of nonse- or all kinds of stuff on there. Sergeant Bitsko wanted to come up, I told him to stay back and, "Stay out of the stairwell," because I wanted him to wait for Levi to get there. And then once Levi got there, ah, we would come up with a plan once they got in place to get him down 'cause now a main concern is is those guys - those - the guys that I'm with don't all have their radios on or can't hear their radios. And they want to come where all of our guns are trained on that doorway. So there's a serious blue on blue issue right there. So I'm trying to prevent these guys from shooting each other the best I can. Um, so Levi gets down there and him and Sergeant Bitsko are talking and they - I don't know if they came across the radio or what we did but we - we - we decided we're gonna make entry. We're gonna put the charge on the door. Once the charge went off on the door we're gonna wait to see if the guy starts shooting at us and we're gonna see what happened. So, I told the guys that I was with I said, "Look, when he blows this door off the fire alarm's gonna go off and maybe the sprinklers. And people are gonna come out of their room," that's - that's like my biggest - I - I didn't know if the guy was gonna start shooting at us but I was like, "Just be prepared for people to come out of the sides," and I don't know if this guy has accomplices in the other rooms that'll come out and shoot us anyway 'cause there's 12 doors probably between us. So I was like, "Look, civilians are gonna come out when this charge goes off. If it looks like an innocent and they're not involved just - you know, we got to grab 'em, we gotta run 'em back to the elevator." So the charge goes off, the fire alarm goes off, everything turns into fuck-pandemonium. People start coming out and we're running 'em out and we get all the

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people back. And we waited. So we waited a few seconds 'cause we're like, all right, is this guy gonna shoot at us, is a bomb gonna go off, what's gonna happen? And nothing happened. This is one point in my life that I really wish we had a flashbang and I don't know if Levi had one or not but I didn't obviously have a flashbang because I would have - if we could have thrown one in there would be great. So we waited and, you know, this is a high stress situation so I don't know maybe a minute ballpark. Um, and then they had the shield down there. And Levi and Sergeant Bitsko, ah, we - we decided, okay, they're gonna make entry, we're gonna cover the hallway, we're gonna watch the hallway. Um, so they came up, Levi came up, made entry into the room. O'Donnell left from our position ran down the hallway with Levi. And joined him and then the rest of Sergeant Bitsko's team started to make entry into the room. Our team in the hallway moved - well, moved forward because now we know that the food service cart didn't blow up so that was a plus. So we were to move forward and get down the hallway. And once they got into the room a bottleneck happened because it was probably like six guys trying to get into this room. And I guess when Levi - what - what I surmise is that when Levi made entry into the room with O'Donnell, um, they saw the suspect laying there. They called out that, "Suspect's down," and I had not heard any gunfire at this time. They said, "We have one down, there's a second door." The bottleneck happened at the door so it kind of prevented the rest of us from moving forward so we're - but we're still watching the back of the hall. They go in, they say, "We're gonna blow this other door." Um, as they walk into the room, mind you on the radio there's a million other

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active shooters being called out in all these other hotels so. The thought is is if we could stop this guy from re- whatever he's doing 'cause I thought that he was watching us. I thought that he was gonna blow us up. I said, "If we can stop this guy. If we have to go in there and - and he fires off a couple of rounds at us at least he can't rain down hellfire from that room anymore." So we had to make entry, I mean it really wasn't a question or not. Ah, if we could wait or not. It was exigent. Um, they go in, they put the charge on the second door and that - that probably was about, if I had to guess, 15, 20 seconds after the initial entry. So they put the second charge on the door. Um, they blow the door. As soon as that I hear the second explosion now the fire alarm goes off again and I hear the (unintelligible). I hear the what sound like a burst fire but it was very muffled. So it sounded like two or three rounds went off. And I'm - I'm down there I'm trying to make my way through the room I'm like, okay, I was like, "Did the suspect shoot at us? Did we shoot the suspect, are we in a gunfight, what's going on," and they were all pretty calm. So they all seemed a little bit like embarrassed. And I guess one of - O'Donnell or one of them had a negligent or accidental discharge I don't know what the proper term would be. So they fired off a couple of rounds I don't even know where they went but they're like - the guy 405 and I was - and I was like, "Okay." So, and then they said, "The room's clear." So I said, "Okay, no problem." When they came out of the room I was like, all right, there's a million other active shooters being called out right now. So I grabbed Trzpis, Conover and one guy from Robbery, I don't remember his name. The three of those guys, I said, "Look, you guys are gonna stay here with me. We're gonna

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work on Intel gathering and we're gonna work on, you know, preserve this crime scene." And I told the rest of the guys to get your shit and go to the New York New York 'cause the New York New York had two active shooters called in at the same time at that very moment. So Sergeant Bitsko took the SWAT guys and the rest of the team and they left. Um, at that point, I don't know if it was right there or a second later, ah - I don't know if I answered the phone first or what happened but - so I go in there. Um, and I could see the suspect laying on the ground and the blood had started to, ah - started to coagulate by his head. So it appears that based on the time I didn't - there - I didn't think it - it - it looked like there's no way that the gunshots that we did from the time frame based on the blood coagulating like they shot him. You know, like when I looked at him I immediately thought to myself this guy has been dead for more than the time we've been in this room. Not a long time but it looked like he killed himself. 'Cause then - and there was a pistol next to his head too. So the guys left. My phone rings and, um, it's Hendrickson from, ah - I think he's Counter Terrorism or TASS or one of the two, I don't remember which one he's from. But it was him and he was with Captain Tomiano. And, ah, I'm trying to preserve the crime scene and they're like, "Hey, you need to go in there and you need to be looking for his ID and look for anything that we can get to gather intelligence under exigent circumstances to prevent the rest of these shooters. We need to figure out the rest of these shooters are because we're gonna try to go up on wiretaps on the phones." So he's like, "Go in there, get any phones that you can. Get the phone numbers off of 'em and start figuring it out." So, I'm like, "Look," - I go,

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"I get it's - it's exigent circumstances and I'm trying to preserve the crime scene at the same time." And Captain Tomiano was in the background, he's like, "Per Captain Tomiano," - he's like, "You need to start digging through stuff and figure out what's going on in there." And, "You need to start sending it down to us so we can get wiretap - so we can start doing the, ah, PEN's, emergency PEN's on the phone numbers that you re- retrieve." So I found a couple of dropped phones on the counter but they were obviously, you know, throw down phones and not the - the suspect's real phone. And I said, "Look, well I don't know if he has his phone on him, I'm gonna have to move him," and they're like, "Well you gotta move him, you gotta look for the phone, you gotta find it." So, we go through the room, Trzpis and I. Conover stayed out in, ah, did security on the room. Trzpis and I went through the room, we started digging through looking for, um, actionable intelligence under our exigent circumstances and, ah, we found some computers but we couldn't get into 'em. We found the I- a lot of ID cards and like players cards and all that stuff. So we're taking pictures of it all and sending it down to, ah, Hendrickson at the CP. And we sent all the phone numbers that we had. And then we found his main phone - well, no, we - we rolled him - so I grabbed him by the arm. I picked the suspect up on his side. The blood came out of his mouth when out next to his face. Trzpis checked him for phones. He still had a gun underneath him. I rolled him back he was obviously dead 'cause he had a bullet in his head. So I put him back down, he went back in the same position but now the blood on the side of his face is from me rolling him. Um, he had nothing on him. We later found his real phone and a bunch of the

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phone calls that he had made or - or had come from was from that Marilou girl or whatever his name is or her name is. And so I told Hendrickson, I was like, "This is - this is - you need to figure out who this girl is." Because at the time still reports of more shooters were coming in. And, ah, I'm collecting pictures of everything that I can to send to Hendrickson and Captain Tomiano. We're sending it all, me and Trzpis are both sending it all downstairs. Um, somebody came, I think Levi came back. I think Levi came back when I had first went into the room. And he took some pictures, I go - and then I asked him, I was like, "What - what do you have to do?" He's like, "I have to go in to take pictures to give to," ah, his boss. So I said, "Fine, I'll go in there with you." So I went in there with him. They took the pictures and, ah, him - I think it was him and O'Donnell together and then they left. But I think that was before I, ah - me and Trzpis had started moving all the stuff around. So, I sent all the stuff down to Hendrickson or Hendricks and, um, and Captain Tomiano. And, ah, we got out of the room. We were concerned because there was about 15 suitcases in there and I thought that there was gonna be bombs in there. Um, and I - I sent to Hendrickson, I said, "Hey, look, you need to send a bomb dog up here." And he's like, "I'm working on it but there's nothing," - you know, "There's nothing available." I said, "You need to send a bomb dog up here because there's just." Ah, I think if you took a look at the crime scene pictures of - of what was in that room all guns and the breathing apparatus' and the weird boxes and the power sources and the power tools and the wires and the cables I'm walking around and I'm thinking to myself that there's probably explosives in there somewhere so I was very - very cognizant of that



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and trying to get that dog up there. But the dog never showed up. Um, so I went back outside the room. And with, ah, Conover and Trzpis and the guy from Robbery and, ah, I talked to a lot of people. Sent them a lot of information and then, um, waited. Or Hendrickson kept up- updating me on the phone. Asking if the ATF had been up there. And now a few hours had went by since I walked out of the room. And, ah, he said that the ATF went over to, um, South Central to get briefed and then they were gonna come up and, ah, interview me. So, a few hours had passed and then the FIT guys - ah, Sergeant MacDonald and, ah, a couple ATF guys showed up and the, ah, ARMOR guy showed up upstairs. And then eventually they relieved me and then I went back to South Central.

CJ: So you did not do an interview with ATF?

WM: No.

CJ: 'Kay. Okay. Um, just very good. Just a couple - couple of things. You mentioned that SWAT had showed up. Um, and you talked about how Levi Hancock had gone to the other floor and come up through the stairway closer to the room. Where did - where did the other SWAT guys come from or were they there when you came out of that - onto this 32nd floor from where the elevator was?

WM: No, it was - at that point it was just me and the patrol - and the PD detectives and the patrol officers.

WM: After a few minutes of us clearing rooms Levi and O'Donnell came from behind us from the elevator. Now I don't know if they came out of the elevator core or...

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CJ: Okay.

WM: ...if they came up a different wing. But they came from behind me from the elevator core.

CJ: Okay.

WM: Came up to me and that's when I told Levi, "Go meet up with Sergeant Bitsko downstairs and go to this - he's gonna go the stairwell and you can - we're gonna formulate a plan." And I kept O'Donnell with me. And then like a couple minutes later the two, ah, snipers showed up and stayed with me.

CJ: Okay.

WM: I mean it's kind of weird to describe but we're moving down the hallway as Sergeant Bitsko is moving underneath us. We're all moving together trying to converge on this room and figure out what we're gonna do, hopefully not to get blown up.

CJ: So just so I'm clear when you - the only time that you hear gunshots is when you're still over at where you were gonna serve the search warrant?

WM: Correct.

CJ: Is that correct.

WM: Yes.

CJ: So once you arrived at the Mandalay Bay you did not hear any other gunshots other than the three or two or three that you heard muffled once you were up on the floor after they'd made entry into the room, is that correct?

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WM: Correct, because I asked the security guard to take me to where the security guard had been shot 'cause it had just happened.

CJ: Okay.

WM: And that had just come over the radio.

CJ: Okay, so you never did hear any other shots, the suspect shooting or anything like that?

WM: No.

CJ: Okay. Jay, do you have any questions?

JR: Ah, just a couple clarifying, ah. Thanks, Craig. Ah, operator this is Jay Roberts. Um, Sergeant Matchko you said, ah, at one point you had to low crawl. Um, and you said that you passed your rifle off. Do you remember who you passed your rifle off too?

WM: No.

JR: Was it civilian or an officer?

WM: It was an officer.

JR: Okay.

WM: I went and got it back a few hours later.

JR: Okay.

WM: I don't know - I don't know where I found that guy.

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JR: Okay, I just wanted to, ah, clarify that. And then you, ah - you said, ah, Levi and O'Donnell, they're both SWAT operators?

WM: Yes.

JR: And they said - you said that they were taking pictures for their boss?

WM: They said - I think they said it for their boss or for their report or something. They said something to that effect.

JR: But they do work for Captain Tomiano?

WM: Yes.

JR: And he is the same captain that told you to take Intel pictures?

WM: Captain Tomiano told Hendrickson and I think Hendrickson's in Counter Terrorism.

JR: Okay.

((Crosstalk))

JR: Understood.

WM: But either that or he's in TASS or he's in, I can't remember where he's from.

JR: I guess what I'm trying to get at is is the pictures that were taken in the room under exigent circumstances that was being directed by Counter Terrorism under the direction of Captain Tomiano who is in charge of SWAT and - and, ah, that bureau.

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WM: That was to me and Trzpis. Now when Levi came back I asked him why he needed to go back into the crime scene. And that's when he told me and I said, "Okay." 'Cause they had already been in there.

JR: That's all I have.

CJ: 'Kay, anything else that you can think of?

WM: All these things were done, um, under very, very high stress conditions. Um, all these th- obviously I'm an investigative detective and all these things were done under exigent circumstances to prevent the loss of - further loss of life. Um, the officers that were with me on that day did an amazing job of coming together and working as a team and everyone of 'em risked their life, um, and limb because they knew how dangerous it was going down that hallway to, ah - to prevent this guy from killing anybody else and I think every one of those cops is a hero, that's all.

CJ: 'Kay. Operator, this is the end of the interview, same people are present. The time is 1913.

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**THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1913 HOURS.**

**CJ: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)  
FIT2017-032**

**Reviewed by S6878M  
10/8/17**

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SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO  
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

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NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: SERGEANT JOSHUA BITSKO (JB), P# 6928

DOB:

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

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The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE J. LEAVITT (JL), P# 5814, LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-03-17 at 1834 hours. Also present is Las Vegas Police Managers and Supervisors Association representative T. Roberts (TR).

JL: Operator, this is Detective, ah, Jason Leavitt, P# 5814, with the Force Investigation Team, re- ah, recording one, ah, witness officer interview under event 171001-3519. Ah, person giving the interview will be Joshua Bitsko, that's B-I-T-S-K-O, P# 6928. His call sign at the time was 590K. Ah, his date of hire is [REDACTED]. Currently assigned to the K-9 Section. And he has Friday, Saturday, Sunday off, ah, working 1900 to 0500. The interview will - will be reference an active shooter that occurred on October 1, 2017 at approximately 2000 hours. Ah, at 3950 South Las Vegas Boulevard. That will be the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino. Today's date is 10-03-

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2017 with the time being 1834 hours. The statement's being conducted at, ah, LVMPD Headquarter in building 'C'. We're actually located in the CIRT Office. Also present for this interview will be Attorney Tara Roberts. That's T-A-R-A. Ah, last name, common spelling, with the PMSA. Ah, first off, ah, is it okay if I call you Josh?

JB: Yes, please do.

JL: All right. Ah, first off, Josh, ah, are you aware this conversation's being recorded?

JB: Yes, I am.

JL: Ah, before we get started - um, I realize the event didn't take place today. Ah, but before we get started could you actually, ah, describe to me the uniform that you were wearing and what equipment you would have had on you?

JB: Okay. Well the uniform that I'm wearing is the same one that I'm wearing today. It's a green BDU - BDU style uniform. Um, it's a dark green in color. Ah, K-9 patch and the LMVPD patch. I have a cloth badge patch over my left breast. Over my right breast is my last name. Um, I had, ah - the same duty belt which I'm wearing today. Starting from the centerline moving to the right I have my body cam, ah, battery. My, ah, controller for my E-Collar for my K-9 partner Loki, who was in the car at the time of the incident. I have my, ah, handgun. As I go around to the back I have a flashlight, baton, handcuffs, radio, pepper spray, Taser, extra magazines and on the front I have a, what's known as a traffic lead connected to a, ah - a ring on my belt in case I need to attach my K-9 partner and go hands-free for something. So.

JL: 'Kay.

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JB: But I was not photographed the night of or today so. If you need to do that do it.

JL: We - we should be all right. Um, reference the, ah - the weapon that you're carrying what kind of gun is it you carry?

JB: I carry a, ah, Glock 17 handgun with a Trijicon RMR Optic and an extreme light - light on the front of it. But I also - ah, this night I deployed my, ah, Daniel Defense, ah, AR15.

JL: Okay.

JB: With a, ah, aim point PRO Optic on it.

JL: 'Kay. Ah, do you know if your body worn camera was activated?

JB: It - it was.

JL: Okay.

JB: However, when I - when I, ah, arrived I put on my heavy gear. 'Cause, you know, in K-9 we have SWAT gear which turned the camera towards my face so a lot of it you're gonna get the side of my face like Blair Witch Project.

JL: Um, since you put on your heavy gear can you, ah - do you have any extra equipment on that heavy gear that you also...

((Crosstalk))

JB: I do, so my - ah, my - it's actually a, ah - a plate carrier, ah, the brand is 511. It's OD green as well. I have, ah, a large yellow police patch on the front. I believe I have a police patch on the back along with my last name and K-9 on the back. Um, I have a



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couple extra magazines. Um, for my AR15 on the vest. A couple of pouches for miscellaneous K-9 equipment on it also.

JL: 'Kay. Ah, reference the, ah - the active shooter that we're actually here to talk about. Ah, can you just describe to me and start with, um, where you're at at the time that you learned about this incident.

JB: Mm-hm.

JL: Ah and how you responded and if you just - would just kind of go through what took place after that.

JB: Yes. So, at - we were doing - ah, conducting new dog training and I have a couple of new dogs, I'm our training sergeant so I run our training program. We were at Eastern and 215 at Moon Valley Nursey which is a stage for our new dog training. Um, I keep my Pac-set on scan so I hear every channel. Um, I don't necessarily always hear what's going on on every channel but I look for - look for Code Red tones. Um, screaming on the radio. And that's when I heard - I heard an officer screaming, I looked down, I saw that it was on Convention Center. I turned it to, ah, Convention Center so I get all the traffic on it 'cause how scan functions it's just the channel you're on you'll get all traffic and the sporadic other channels. So when I switched over I heard somebody, ah - an officer yelling on the radio something about casualties, something about, ah, shots being fired. Ah, the rest of my - my team was dressed down in their black tee-shirts and - and cargo pa- or BDU pants for dog training. But Dave Newton, ah, who is one of my handlers, officers, ah, was with me

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in uniform. So I said, "Let's go." I yelled to the other guys, "There's an active shooter on Convention Center." We jumped in our car and went. We jumped on 215 headed westbound. Um, exited Las Vegas Boulevard. Driving time, it was probably only a couple minutes before we were there. We began heading north on Las Vegas Boulevard from, ah - from 215. Or did we go? No, I'm sorry, so we got on I- we got on 215 went 215 to I-15, I-15 to Russell. Ah, eastbound on Russell, northbound on Las Vegas Boulevard. As we were going northbound I, ah, was advised that the suspect was firing from an elevated position Mandalay Bay. So that's about the time limit from when it first started where I'm guessing for a start from what I heard, driving time to when they started to figure out the shots weren't coming from the interior of Route 91 but they were coming from, ah, Mandalay Bay at a elevated position. We still didn't know where, what floor. Um, I get - we have K-9 Simplex radios in our car so I can communicate to coordinate searches upon our arrival. I get on the K-9 Simplex radio and I tell Newton, "Don't drive down," because we were gonna drive right underneath it. There was a conglomeration of patrol cars on Las Vegas Boulevard. Initially I did have a concern that there were officers taking a lot of fire there 'cause they were right in the line of fire. Um, we did a U-turn, Officer Newton said, "I'm gonna go in on the Four Seasons," it should all be captured on my body cam. That radio channel is Simplex line of sight so it's not recorded. Um, we enter through, ah, Four Seasons, we go over to the Shark Reef. When I can get on the radio - I start to crisis dress, I throw on my heavy gear, I throw on my helmet. Um, when we - I get on the radio and I say - first thing I said, "I need a couple of officers at

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the Shark Reef so we can make entry to Mandalay Bay." Um, so I asked for officers. She acknowledges me - I was never assigned to the call so I want to just make sure that you guys, my body cam is tagged because I was never assigned to the call so it's not automatically gonna be tagged. So if you guys can sure - 'cause I don't want it to be deleted in 30 days. Um, so, Newton and I begin our crisis dress in our SWAT gear. Um, we get a couple of PD off- or PD detectives that were sitting at South Central arrived with us. Um, the - as they - they pull up some of them already have some of their gear on. "Like gear up. We're gonna make entry here." I ask, "Does anybody have a rifle," they say, "No." So then I deploy my rifle - rifle. Generally as a, ah - a sergeant, a supervisor, I don't want to have my rifle out. But given that we were going into rifle fire and nobody had one I deployed mine. I also carry a ballistic shield understanding that a ballistic shield that we carry is only rated for handguns, um, which I've been certified through LVMPD SWAT to, you know, carry and operate the shield - I understand that there's a new shield class out and I haven't taken that yet. Um, but I have been through SWAT school, operated with the shield numerous occasions. Um, so I - I also deploy the shield which I - I give off to the PD detective. Um, it's better to have it than not. So at that point, yeah, I knew we were going into rifle fire but at the same I - I'd rather carry it and have it. Um, right before we're getting ready to go in two more PD detectives shows up, I don't know who. A female officer, she had a rifle. I'll tell you through my training and experience she appeared to be very overwhelmed. Um, which is why I still even though I had somebody with a rifle on my team kept my rifle. Um, and then another PD detective with me so then at

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this point I have, ah. Is that one, two, three, four, five - a five man element and myself. So we make entry. Um, initially Officer Newton, ah, he's a K-9 handler, gets his K-9 partner out. I told him to put the K-9 up. Reason I did that is we were going into a gunfight possibly a very - got a lot of people running towards us. Um, later in the event and I'll explain that it would have been nice to have a patrol dog with me, however, running through a crowded casino with people running and screaming were gonna elicit bite. Um, I would rather him be able to put shots on the suspect rather than worry about his dog. Um, also I operated with, ah - with Officer Newton on numerous different occasions so I - I knew his capabilities and I'd rather it be unencumbered by his patrol, ah, K-9. We made entry through the Shark Reef, it was a bit of jaunt 'cause that's a lit- that's a long walk from, I don't know if you're familiar, I'm sure you are now quite familiar. But, ah, through those doors it was quite a walk especially in heavy gear. So we're kind of trotting, I didn't - I intentionally paced ourselves 'cause I didn't want to be going into a gunfight smoked. Ah, 'cause I did know actually I was at the Shark Re- Reef that weekend with my family before so I knew how long of a walk it was. Ah, through the casino. So we, ah, you know, pace ourselves. I'm telling citizens to go towards us 'cause I knew there were no gunfire coming from where we were coming from so as we come across citizens we'd tell 'em to go towards us. Um, one of the PD detectives with the shield, and you have to forgive me, I don't know his name. Um, asked an employee where the - the elevators to the, um - the elevators to the hotel, the tower is and he - they told him just straight and to the right. But as we go into the main casino I take our team left to security. I

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found a security guard. I took one of my PD detectives. I said, "You with the security guard go up to, ah, surveillance so we can get intelligence." Um, he - one of the other, um, detectives, "You want me to go with him?" And I did want him to have two people but I knew I was going into a gunfight. Um, so my perception was I needed as many bodies with me going up. 'Cause I didn't any other officers in there at this time. Ah, so I did direct that PD detective to go with security guard up by himself. Um, I wasn't hearing gunshots on the casino floor. Obviously it was a possibility to - and it was, you know, not the best situation to have him by himself going up. I made that decision. I knew - I knew the decision I was making when I made it. Um, I took my team to the elevators, Officer Murray, ah, a K-9 handler with me had gotten on the radio and advised, ah, Mandalay Bay or to kill the - kill the elevators. So you had to have someone with a card. Ah, tactically was an outstanding decision 'cause if the suspect did get mobile it would be able to inhibit - we can own, I can own the stairways, I - we don't have the resources to own every floor of the elevators. So, um, that decision - if the suspect were to go mobile prevented him from moving. It did create some, ah, you know, difficulties in moving at times. Um, but in my opinion it was worth that to stop the suspect if he was mobile. The information that I was receiving at that time was there was security and a gunfight on the 29th floor with the suspect. And then also there was patrol officers stating that the suspect was possibly on the 32nd floor. As I get on the elevator, um, Sergeant Matchko and his team also get on the elevator. So we're all in - in the elevator. We - we make the decision to go up to the 28th floor. And then take the stairs up. So I don't want to open the

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doors to taking rounds. 'Cause the information I was getting at this point comms, our radio also was horrible. Every time I'd get on the radio or not every time but I'd say probably every fourth time I'd get double beeps, it wasn't working inside the casino. When it was I was hearing the ca- they were dealing with the casualties outside. Um, the people down, getting medical. Um, so trying to get in between, get the information, it was extremely difficult. So, I communicated with Matchko. I can't remember, I - I remember saying, "We'll take floor 29." I think I sent him to floor 30 or I might have asked him to go to 32, I'm not - I would have to review the body cam. Um, I watched the body cam the day of with, um - with, ah, the - I wanted there to be real time information to the detectives and the people in the CP so I did plug in my body cam at South Central Area Command and played it to see how much of the room we can see 'cause we're still working this, right, so, um. Or I needed real time information. So I did, I watched part of it but I didn't watch the whole thing. Um, so we go to floor 28, my team gets off we go to the stairwell. We go up to 29 and we begin clearing. Um, I took the lead or the - the team leader position, I went to the left. Ah, because I had a rifle. Um, I had given off - my female officer that had the rifle stayed with Matchko's team just 'cause how it worked out. So then I had two PD detectives. Ah, Officer Newton and myself. Um, so I was the only rifle. I was the team leader off to the left with the rifle. Then I had a officer with the shield and then handguns behind that. I, ah, made Officer Newton our rear guard and I'll explain why that was such an important position in a second as we go through. And then I had, ah, first entry, second entry and then I would either take entry of the front if we

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needed to as we moved through the, ah - as we moved through the floors. On the 29th floor - so you had, basically it was like a - you had three wings on each floor going off in different directions almost like a triangle. Um, so we - it was just kind of a pick a direction at this point. Um, we begin clearing down the hallway the rear guard behind us. We came across, I think it was 29th floor, I - I can't say for sure. A couple open doors. Um, rooms that we just went in and cleared, there were people inside. We sheltered in place. You know, there's someone shooting inside lock the doors. So then as we come out because there was three I would make the call left or right and I would direct our rear guard, "Hey, this person could - if they came out could swing behind us." Um, obviously I'm not seeing security in a gunfight on 29. But comms were so bad that I made a decision instead of going straight to 32 I was concerned that we were going to, um - that if we - if I skipped a floor and there was someone of 30 they'd come up behind us. And I didn't want to fight a - a gunfight in two directions especially with the limited manpower, limited communications. So we go up to floor - I think the next floor 30 I come out and as we co- I come I believe it was Matchko's team, ah, we just come face-to-face. I immediately diagnose it as cops, I'm like, "Metro, Metro, Metro," or whatever I said. I duck into cover. Um, I then advise them, "Finish clearing here go up to 32. We'll do the next level and then we'll meet you." Um, so we did that. They went up to 32. Ah, we cleared 31, nothing of info on any of those. Other at one point because I'm on the SWAT communicator for the all-call my phone kept fricking ringing. Um, giving up my position. So I did take one of my - one of my people I put him in the leader position, I falled back or fell back

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so then I could turn my ringer off 'cause tactically I didn't want my phone ringing the whole time, um. So we get up to floor 32 I'm standing in the hall well. As we go up - as we're going up to, ah - on the stairwell I hear something above me. Um, because communications were so bad especially in a concrete field stairwells with all the metal stairs I couldn't get on the radio, I couldn't rely on the radio to - to give our position which is what I would rather do. Um, I took a chance at that point that the people above me - I could hear mumbling. Um, I could hear people but - so before I ran to the corner it didn't sound like a suspect. Not the - I can't really explain would a suspect would sound like but I'll tell you through my training and experience I felt it might be officers. Instead of getting on the radio which I obviously prefer to do I just began yelling, "Metro, Metro, Metro," waiting for a response. They did respond I don't remember what they responded but obviously it was enough suffice for me to come up. I came up on the next level there was three security guards holding Berretta's and two Convention Center officers with them. Um, I directed them to hold their position there. And then we continued out to floor 32. Before I went into the floors though I stopped. Because I had so many incidences of blue on blue I'm on the radio trying to find out where they are on 32 let 'em know where we're at. And let 'em know that we're coming out so I don't get shot. 'Cause I - you know, they might see a rifle. Obviously I'm not wearing a tan uniform I'm wearing green, greens. I'm aware of that so trying to get an answer on the radio. Trying to get an answer on the radio, I'm not, I'm not. I think eventually I said, "Okay, let's open the door," I open the door and it was Levi, ah, in SWAT and his team coming towards us. So, ah, because



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myself and Newton had been through SWAT school I been on 100's of SWAT missions with Levi he goes, "Great, you guys - you two are with me." He had a plan at that point. We dropped down a floor, went and we went up the stairwell to there - so basically how I said there was three wings. The one wing to the north where, ah, I think believe it was 135 where the suspect's room is. Right outside to - so if you're facing the door to the left is the stairwell door. Um, we go up in the hallway. We, ah - we kill the lights, there's two lights we pry open to - to shut the lights off. Um, we might have fallen a couple times 'cause we had to boost some people up to get there. I mean it wasn't pretty but we got it done. Um, but we didn't want to be backlit when we opened the door. Um, it appeared that the suspect had drilled the door shut. Someone said security did it but that doesn't make sense. Ah, it appeared the suspect had drilled the door shut. We pry- we popped the door. Um, I'm up now, it's me, Newton. There's - so basically you have stairwells that go down, I'm just gonna draw you a little diagram here. Um, and you have a little landing. Then you have a door and then a second door that goes out to the hallway. Targets - ah, target's door right here. So you had a second - you got a landing here and then you got a second little room here.. Um, you had - in this second room that led directly to the hallway you had Newton Levi, ah, and myself. Um...

TR: Josh, can I stop you for a minute?

JB: Yes.

TR: Will you just explain your diagram kind of in terms of north, south, whatever, for the recording.

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JB: Okay, well as of actually right now I - I poorly, I believe north is gonna be to the left of the, ah, diagram. And I have a hallway...

JL: You should be right.

JB: I have a, huh?

JL: I think that's right.

JB: Yeah, so, um, but I have the hallway that runs north, south and then east, west is the stairwell that we were at. There was a little retaining room. There's two doors there. Ah, we tried to pin the doors open at one point we - I tried to use a tactical muzzle that I keep in my pocket. Um, that didn't work. Um, but - so we used a, ah, pry bar to pop open the door. Ah, patrol officer, I think it might be a gang officer that was with - him and Levi popped the door open as I - if I provide cover, um, with my rifle. Once we get the door open directly across from us there's a second, there's a door directly fro- across from us the door faced. Well if that way is north then the door would face west. Um, there's a door and in front of that door is what appears to be a room service cart. On the room service cart on top there's a plate with, I didn't know what it was at the time. Ah, a black - ah, what it turned out to be a camera taped on top of it and that camera was on top of the plate facing back towards the suspect door. Um, I couldn't see at this point underneath the, um, cart but there were wires go- leading to the cart. Um, so I covered on that door 'cause that's obviously suspicious. Um, we start talking and it - and - I can't say how long we were there. I can't say everything we discussed at this point. We're discussing tactics, discussing what's

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that cart. Um, there were - there was a lot of debris on the ground outside consistent with rounds flying through the door. Um, down the hallway. Um, and I believe I - I might have peeked the door and actually saw the bullet holes for myself. That lent to me that the suspect was most likely still inside the room. But at this point on the radio I'm getting a, another active shooter at New York New York and an active shooter at Tropicana. Officers yelling on the radio that there's multiple casualties at these locations. You know, I expect phone calls to come in from citizens here. 'Cause you have people walking in injured. But when I heard officers yelling, "There's multiple casualties, multiple casualties," to me that upped my clock of how long we have here. First off it took a while to get up here. This wasn't a normal active shooter where someone's going through a crowd and you go and neutralize 'em. This is a subject in a hardened heightened position. So I knew how long. I was very aware that he was actively killing people. Um, so Levi when with all these others going on he says, "I have a couple charges," um, which to me - you know, charges meaning you can do an explosive breach on a door to make entry. Um, and I - I can't remember the exact wording but he's like, "I'm thinking we hang a charge," um, and see if we can't get a response from the guy. So I'm like, "I'm good with it." Um, I step out. Officer Newton covers the door as Levi hangs the charge. I step out, I cover that secondary door, ah, with my rifle. And I believe it was at this time, I can't be 100% certain if it was at this time or another time. That I reached over and I flipped that plate that had the camera on it so it wasn't aimed at us. 'Cause I knew we're gonna - I felt we were probably gonna make entry and I wanted to give us

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every chance. Um, so we - we tuck back in. He then calls Lieutenant Huddler on the phone to get approval for the [REDACTED] which is a entry. Um, and, you know, I think he got approval for tagging the charges prior but I can't - I can't remember. And I'm like, "Hey, we need to let the officers down the hall know. We need to get on the radio and make sure they know. They don't hear an explosion and think we're all dead and start rushing down the hallway." Um, so - so we get on, we let them know that, "Hey, we're gonna - we're gonna breach the door." Um, so we tuck back in, we use the shield to prop the door open. 'Cause if I shut the door the explosion may damage it, it may, whatever, so we use the shield to prop the door open. We step back, um, he calls for the breach. We breach the door, we get a successful breach. Ah, we move forward. Now Levi is low and I'm high. And Levi's seeing how much he can clear we're still behind somewhat cover. Um, we weren't definitely not in a fatal funnel at this point 'cause we weren't out in the hallway. We were - still had the wall as cover. I could see a, ah - ah, what appeared to be an AR platform rifle with a Scope and bipod, ah, directly behind the door. I called that out to Levi, um, as he's clearing what he can clear just from his location. Ah, we move out into the hallway. We get Officer O'Donnell and another SWAT officer I believe and we make entry. Once again my perception is if we didn't make entry we wouldn't know, 'A', if he's still inside. Um, or if he's still gonna kill people. I mean he's be- at this point I'm starting to hear the gravity of this, so. Um, I'm not blind to the fact that there was a chance that there was explosives on that cart. That was one of my main concerns. We make entry. Um, and initially when we made entry or we started I could see that this

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wasn't a secondary room that that was a hallway that would lead to that door. So I held on that door 'cause I didn't want a suspect to come behind us. I hear Levi calling for one, meaning, you know, help, with me, "I need one, I need one." For me that means he needs help in there so I grab somebody I said, "You cover this door." And I fold into the - or move into the room. Um, I end up going left clearing a bedroom and a closet. Um, stepping over numerous weapons, brass, debris both from him shooting a lot of guns, debris from us blowing the door. Um, I could see what appeared to be a blue ventilation system. Um, when I could feel airflow which wasn't natural for that room. I been in the - I've been in that specific - not that specific suite but that type of suite for dignitary protection as a bomb dog handler at Mandalay Bay. So I was - but, one, I didn't think about it before. If I did I probably would have (unintelligible) layout. Um, I was a little stressed at the time before we made entry. Once we went in I remember, "Oh, I been in - I've been in these places." Um, so there was the, ah - um, ventilation system. Which we stepped over, I might have stepped on to be honest with you. I tried to be as careful as at that point though it's still tactical. Um, we clear the bedroom. Ah, O'Donnell opens a door, I clear a closet. We then move out and there's a closed bedroom door, ah, on the east side of the room. And that - the door faces, ah, like the room when you turn the south. And it was closed. I wasn't in a position necessarily where I could see it. I - I'm know- I've learned not to rush in, you know. He'll call me if he needs me at this point. But he ha- if he needed more bodies at that point he'd call more - call for more. Um, he says that he's gonna do secondary breach on that door rather than open and go in.

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So good tactical call. Um, I also at this point see the suspect laying supine, his face fa- his feet facing north, um, he's on his back. Um, he has a, what appears to be a devastating gunshot wound to the head. Ah, there's a small silver revolver above his head with blood on it. Everything was consistent to a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Ah, it appeared as though like I said he had taken his own life. Ah, there was not blood rushing out. It - there was - it was a pool of blood which led me to believe it wasn't like he did it as we made entry. I'm guessing it would, you know - I mean I can't - I'm not even gonna say a time. Ah, 'cause I don't have the body experience to say a time but there was not blood rushing out that I saw. Ah, Levi called for a secondary breach or ca- called that he was breaching. He breached that door again, he said it on the radio so we didn't have people rushing in thinking that, you know, we had just got blown up which was still a concern of mine that we were gonna get blown up because I knew through my training and experience that these types of tactics he booby-traps it as well. Um, went in cleared the bedroom and at that point we're done. We, ah - there was - you know, there was no other suspects inside. There - I believe the SWAT commander asked, "Hey, can you get the guy's wallet and identify him," which we needed to identify if this was our guy, if that's who the room's registered to, and all that. So we did. Ah, we also, in the bedroom there was a folder we opened and found checks, that's how we got the female's name and the address. Um, minimal, we just were going for Intel. That could save people's lives. Once we had it, okay, we backed out. Um, I - other things I saw in the room there was - there was cards. I don't think the wallet was on the suspect. I think the wallet

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was on a counter. Um, I'm pretty sure but I'm not 100% sure. I mean obviously Levi would know where he got the wallet from. Um, there was bags full of magazines, I mean you've been in the room or at least seen pictures so you know there was far too many weapons. There was like 20 rifles, 20-something rifles. Ah, we were stepping over guns left and right. Um, all looked, appeared to be brand new. Um, and different calibers from what I can tell. I'm not a gun expert but it appeared to be not all just .223's. Ah, there was broken windows. I can't say how many. I saw at least two broken windows in the room. Um, so we stepped back out in the hallway. We all kind of just take a deep breath. And then we know, hey, we got to go back to work. So we just discuss we're gonna go down. We're gonna regroup. And we'll go back to a deployment point from there. So and I think I talked to some of the officers that were with me that went in the room with us. "Hey, good job." You know, so.

JL: 'Kay. I want to, ah - I've just got a couple of follow-up questions so I want to back up a little bit. Um, when you're coming up the stairwell and you get to 32 right?

JB: Mm-hm.

JL: And you ta- did you did your, ah, diagram, you talked about like there's basically two doors.

JB: Mm-hm.

JL: To - where the stairwell is.

JB: Correct.

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JL: You got the first door kind of a little room and then the door that goes into the hallway. Um, can you kind of explain a little bit? You talked about the - the door that was drilled shut. Um, did you see - could you see anything from your side that maybe where you knew what you were dealing with or is that something you kind of really saw after the fact?

JB: No, so - well first off, so when we are there I take Officer Donaldson, um, and I put him behind us to cover high. 'Cause once again I didn't want someone coming down from higher back on our back. Um, same thing I'm just trying to - as much command and control of it as I can keep in such a dynamic and rapidly evolving situation, um, I - once Levi was there I knew that he could handle more tactical and I could back off a little bit from tactical 'cause I have tactical experience but - and when - when it was just me and the PD guys and my guy I had to dictate tactics. Once Levi was there and I've worked with Levi for years and years. I been to SWAT school with Levi so I knew he can manage tactics while I can now kind of back off and - and start being a little more, "Hey, I need a patrol guy here. We don't need so many people at the stairwell with us. We need the," and work that. Um, as far as the door somebody said - oh, it was - it was screwed shut by security. I don't remember seeing. I remember why won't this open? It's the only one I came across that wouldn't open when we were going. So that's - I made the - I jumped to the conclusion that the suspect did that to maybe slow our, ah, approach. Um, so someone had a handheld and they just they pried it and pulled it open. But I can't speak to - I - I think I remember something up high with two screws but I - I can't speak to it.



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JL: That's fine. As this is going on, ah, are you still hearing gunshots? Are - are you hearing anything like that?

JB: The only gunshots I heard is when I was on the Boulevard. Once we get up there, um - you know, 'cause I started on the 29th floor and worked up. I - I did not - I was not hearing gunshots anymore.

JL: But even though you're not hearing gunshots are you still getting some radio traffic to hearing that there's still things actively happening outside?

JB: Oh, 100%. We were - I was getting reports of other active shooters and I was get- of other locations on the Strip. And I believe I was hearing that he was still shooting. I just - you know, if I'm on the south side of the 29th floor I may not hear it. Is - is secure as everything is. Compar- so I didn't take that as this was done by any means. Um, I just - when we got up to the 30- where I think I would hear gunshots I wasn't hearing 'em anymore.

JL: As you guys are, um - when you first open that door you talk about the cart that you saw something on top that you later learned was a camera. Ah, when you first see that, um - I guess my question would be did you see the wires, did you know there was something weird about it?

JB: Hundred- I saw the wires. I will tell you when we made that decision to move forward it was one of those we had to. Um, I worked a bomb dog for years. I - I like to think I know a det cord and other things look and these were extension cords. Um, I made

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a gamble that they were cameras. I can't sit here and say it was 100% and I can't tell you that I didn't know if we were gonna get blown up. So.

JL: You all right?

JB: Yeah.

JL: Um, you guys decide to, ah - you're gonna go out you're gonna do things. Did you know that there was officers at the other end of the hall?

JB: Yes, in fact at one point when we, ah - before we move I tell Levi, "Hey, we need to get on the radio and let the officers at the end of the hall know to move back." Because I didn't want a crossfire situation. I didn't want guns aimed at us when we moved and then when I did move out to cover that, ah - the - the door and move the camera I could see the officers at the end of the hall. But we were in communication with them. At one point comms were so bad another officer said, "I'll call Matchko and let him know," and that officer called Sergeant Matchko on the phone and advised him what the plan was so he knew. Because, ah, we just it - I was getting either a double beep from my radio, meaning it wasn't transmitting. Or I was, ah - couldn't co- I couldn't get on because people were talking about, you know, people shot and down and hurt and moving people. You know, to me and this is just more of a - I know people are out there dying but, you know, we need to stop it. Can't stop plugging the - plugging the dam without stopping the - you know, stopping the water first so.

JL: Um, I don't have any other questions. Do you have any questions?

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TR: I do, I just had a point of clarification. You said that Levi told you that he had a couple of charges. And he made a call to the lieutenant. Did the lieutenant actually make the call to use the charges or did you make that call?

JB: Well, it wasn't like he - he gave the plan, I said, "Okay." But we can't use explosive breaching without the SWAT commander's approval.

TR: Okay.

JB: The SWAT commander (unintelligible) so.. It's like, you know, the - so we had to - we couldn't get on the radio to do it so he called him on the phone.

TR: Okay. And when you said, "Okay," what was your state of mind at that point?

JB: Yeah, we got to do it. That's the safest way to do it. I didn't want to stand in front of the door and kick it. I'd rather open the door from cover and then we can see it.

TR: And at what point were you made aware that you guys had the only suspect? That there were no additional active shooters?

JB: I still don't know today that there wasn't any additional active shooters. There was no - no more in the room. But if I thought that was the only suspect and he wasn't actively shooting I damn well would have like to wait for an entire SWAT team up there to make entry. But I didn't know that which is part of my mindset as to why we had to go in when we did.

TR: Okay. I don't have anything further.

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JL: 'Kay. Um, the only other thing I was gonna ask, Josh, is if you could maybe, ah, on your little diagram that you've done.

JB: Mm-hm.

JL: Draw where the door is or write door kind of.

JB: Yeah.

JL: 'Cause I'd like to make a copy of that for you and me as well. Just so we kind of know what those are.

JB: Yeah, I'll - I'll do the whole thing for you. And you can just take this piece of paper.

JL: Okay.

JB: I just write this stuff down so it looks like I'm paying attention.

JL: And I don't know that there's a need to keep recording on this. We might possibly have a question...

JB: I'm...

JL: ...from this but.

JB: I'm good at with you shutting it off.

JL: Okay, I'll go ahead...

JB: If you need to turn it back on you can turn it back on.

JL: No, I'll go ahead and end the interview. Ah, same persons are present, time is now 1906 hours.

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THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1906 HOURS.

JL: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)  
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